

No 61,149

# US 'buzzed' airliner, Libya says

Two fighter jets from a United States aircraft carrier buzzed a Libyan airliner in Greek airspace on a regular flight from Athens to Tripoli on Sunday. Radio Tripoli reported. It described the alleged incident as international piracy and terrorism, and said Libya had complained to the United Nations Security Council.

## Nato to impose fresh sanctions

Nato countries are to announce a fresh set of sanctions against Greece and the Soviet Union from the measures. As the sanctions differ from country to country—despite strong American pressure for a unified package—they will be announced separately.

## Thatcher rejects budget boost

Mrs Thatcher told industrialists and unions on the National Economic Development Council that next month's Budget would not contain any major inflationary measures. She stressed there would only be a "gentle take-off" in the economy.



## Bremner wins libel case

Billy Bremner, the former Leeds and Scotland footballer, in London after he had been awarded £100,000 libel damages from the High Court over allegations in the Sunday Express that he offered bribes to try to influence the results of matches.

## Brezhnev takes US to task

President Brezhnev yesterday accused the United States of "dragging its feet at the nuclear disarmament talks in Geneva. He called for agreement on a two-thirds reduction in medium-range weapons by 1990.

## MPs back EEC

The Commons rejected by 212 votes to 110 a move to introduce a Bill providing for the United Kingdom to leave the EEC by repealing the European Communities Act, 1972.

## Dozier escape

The US Air Force transport aircraft carrying General James Dozier home from Italy yesterday to a hero's welcome after his release from captivity, narrowly avoided crashing on landing at Andrews Air Force base, Maryland.

## Sinai volunteers

The Ministry of Defence said the British contingent to the Sinai peace-keeping force would consist of 35 Army volunteers, commanded by a lieutenant-colonel, to serve as headquarters staff.

## Maxwell threat

Robert Maxwell, the chairman of Oxford United, is to issue a writ against his former manager, Ian Greaves, and against Wolverhampton Wanderers, who yesterday appointed Mr Greaves as their new manager.

## Bristol survive

Eight players accepted an improved offer of redundancy from Bristol City and ensured the club's immediate survival. Their two-year contracts were forfeited and they expect to share £63,000.

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# Government action ruled out

## Rail inquiry is delayed for plea to Aslef

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The inquiry into the rail dispute failed to start yesterday as final attempts were made to persuade the footplatemen's union to attend. It was not clear last night whether the inquiry will go ahead without the union's cooperation.

Leaders of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen met this morning to consider an appeal to join the inquiry while in another part of London the British Railways Board meets to decide its response to Aslef's decision to escalate the strikes next week.

Aslef pickets at Aylesbury yesterday turned away a driver, who is a member of the rival National Union of Railwaymen and who had turned up to take a train into London. British Rail had been hoping to run a skeleton service in defiance of the Aslef strike.

But British Rail has operated a small number of freight services using some of the NUR's 1,500 drivers. About 20 to 30 trains have been running in various parts of the country when Aslef strikes have been held. Yesterday the number was said by British Rail to be down to three.

Aslef members stepped up pickets on depots to stop the freight trains running. In the past NUR members have worked in Scotland, Clyth docks, Northumberland, Nottinghamshire and other areas of the country.

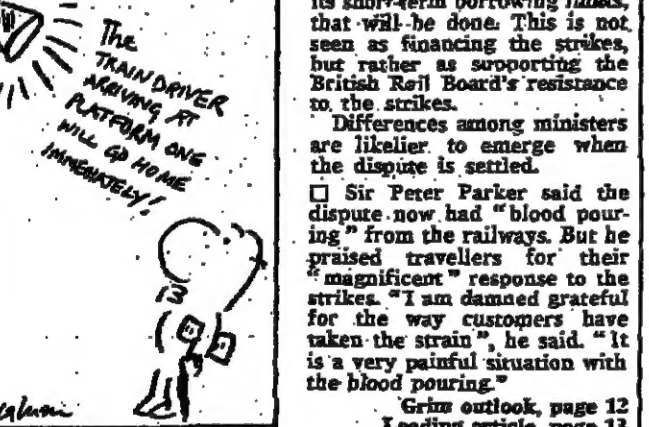
The NUR instruction to its members is not to cross Aslef picket lines, but it has said nothing about taking trains out if there is a picket line.

Lord McCarthy, the inquiry chairman, had two hours of private talks with leaders of the other two rail unions and BR executives at the offices of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

He was also holding discussions with Mr Pat Lowry, chairman of Ascs and Mr Len Murray the TUC general secretary and one of the three today expected to renew the rail to the Aslef executive to cooperate.

Yesterday's manoeuvring took place as the 20,000 train drivers staged their tenth 24-hour stoppage and there will also be no trains today. Up to 100,000 commuters are behind the scenes talks, Aslef members will strike next Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Yesterday's preliminary session of the committee of inquiry was due to be open to the public, but Lord McCarthy decided that he wanted to



## Pickets turn back NUR driver

## BR hopes of special service dashed

From Paul Routledge, Labour Editor, Aylesbury

Two striking train drivers on picket duty yesterday dashed British Rail's hopes of starting even a limited passenger service during the industrial action by the main footplatemen's union.

Mr Alf Bryant, a branch secretary of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen and one of his colleagues turned back a National Union of Railwaymen member who cycled to Aylesbury station to take out the 13.40 to Marylebone.

In a scarcely-audible interlude lasting less than a minute, Mr John Wheeler, the first of four NUR drivers rostered to work Marylebone diagrams, was challenged by Aslef pickets in the road outside the station and turned his bicycle round for home, with photographers in hot pursuit.

Two other NUR drivers due to work yesterday were said by station staff to have been suddenly struck down by illness. Their non-appearance is more convincingly attributed to frantic contacts between the two unions after BR's strike-breaking plan was disclosed in the newspapers.

It was not a very happy scene outside the Buckinghamshire railway terminus. Mr Wheeler, a spare, neatly-moustached man in his fifties with more than 30 years' service at the local depot, applied his bicycle brakes when he saw the footplate pickets. When reminded—as if he needed to be—of the official dispute with British



A masked Salvadorean guerrilla searching a bus at a roadblock near Usulután.

## Haig sounds Salvador alarm

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Feb 3

The congressional battle-lines over American policy toward El Salvador have become clearer this week with the testimony on Capitol Hill of Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, and Mr Thomas Enders, the assistant Secretary of State.

On one side are the Liberals, who are alarmed by the Administration's plans, announced on Monday, to send \$55m in emergency military aid to the Government of President José Napoleón Duarte. They fear that the United States may be in danger of sliding into another Vietnam.

On the other side are the right-wingers, led by Senator Jesse Helms (Republican, North Carolina) and other conservatives, who believe that the Administration's reaction to the spread of Cuban influence in El Salvador, Nicaragua and elsewhere in Central America has been all bark and no bite.

At yesterday's hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Helms tried unsuccessfully to get Mr Haig to comment on the reported presence of Soviet TU-95 (Bear) long-range bombers in Cuba, in addition to Havana's

## Confidence vote sought by Schmidt

From Patricia Clough and Peter Norman, Bonn, Feb 3

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, today asked his political friends on the Bundestag acceptance of his hard-won programme to create jobs and stimulate the economy. In a dramatic move to rally support, both in the country and within his flagging coalition, Herr Schmidt called for a vote of confidence from the Bundestag in his plans. The vote is expected on Friday.

It was only the second time a Chancellor has taken such a step in West German history. The first was ten years ago when the former Chancellor, Herr Willy Brandt, faced with a hung parliament, put the confidence vote to clear the way for fresh elections.

But Herr Schmidt stated clearly at a press conference that he was not thinking of fresh elections. The purpose, he said, was "to make it clear that the government is based on the clear confidence" of the Social Democrat and Free Democratic parliamentary parties.

His aim was to strengthen confidence in his government and "not to open any doors" to elections. Herr (Helmut) Kohl (the Christian Democrat opposition leader) will have to project his hopes further into the future, he said.

Herr Schmidt's move came less than a week after he threatened to resign in order to force the two parties to end weeks of wrangling over the measures, many of which are unpopular to one or the other. It seems as though Herr Schmidt, who is personally in fine form after his pacemaker operation, feels intensely that dissent within his own SPD and between the two parties are draining his power to govern and that drastic measures are needed.

## '£70,000' for 8 years imprisonment

By David Nicholson-Lord

The man who spent eight years in prison wrongly convicted of murder on discredited scientific evidence has been offered compensation by the Government. It was disclosed yesterday. The amount is believed to be at least £70,000.

Mr John Preece, aged 49, a lorry driver of Stoke-on-Trent, was freed by the High Court in Edinburgh last year from a life sentence imposed in 1973. Vital evidence at his trial was given by Dr Alan Clift, the Home Office scientist who has since been forced to retire.

The High Court was told last June that Dr Clift did not emphasize at the trial that both Mr Preece and the murdered woman, Mrs Helen Will, shared the same rare blood group. An ex-gratia payment has now been offered by Mr

## Tebbit warns his enemies

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, yesterday warned trade unionists who have said that they are prepared to break his new employment legislation that they would be committing an offence against the people.

He was being questioned before the Commons Employment Committee about the comments made to it two weeks ago by Mr William Keys, chairman of the TUC's employment policy committee, that he would work actively against such a law and was prepared to take the possible consequences.

Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, had also told the committee that trade unionists were likely to be prepared to break the law if Mr Tebbit's Employment Bill reached the statute book.

Mr Tebbit said although his Bill was being referred to in trade union circles as "Tebbit's law" if enacted, it was Parliament's law and the people's law.

"If anybody seeks to flout or disobey that law an offence is being committed not against me but against the people and against Parliament," he said.

"I hope that when they have soberly weighed these matters that those who feel strongly about this legislation will still take the view that the people's law and Parliament's law is the one to obey."

If they disagreed strongly they should campaign properly and lawfully for it to be changed. Mr Tebbit also said: "I believe that that is what will happen except perhaps for a few of the wildest spirits whose interest is not so much in opposing this Bill as opposing the rule of Parliament."

Mr Tebbit said that view was encouraged by opinion polls showing strong support among trade unionists and non-trade unionists for his measures. "I do not believe there is a mood among ordinary men and women to indulge in political strikes designed to undermine Parliament."

After a 90-minute examination Mr Tebbit left Conservative members of the committee with the clear impression that he regards the Employment Bill as the last industrial relations measure of the present Parliament.

When Mr Jonathan Aitken, Conservative MP for Tunstall East, put to him the view held in some quarters that he has not gone far enough, and whether he would amend his Bill if he felt he had been too moderate and gentle, Mr Tebbit said: "I think I have hit exactly the right note. I do not have it in mind to have second thoughts."

Mr Aitken asked what the Bill did for the rights of those new members of the National Union of Railwaymen who saw their livelihoods threatened by the "bloody-mindedness and crazy militancy of Aslef."

Mr Tebbit said he preferred not to comment on the British Rail dispute.

Mr Thomas Bradley, who is down to speak for the SDP in Monday's debate, has criticized the failure of the Bill to ensure the election by secret ballot of all senior trade union officials.

Mr Bradley, a former president of the Railway Transport and Salaried Staffs Association, is thought to be opposed to the Tebbit Bill.

The only other public indication of a view on the Bill was given by Dr David Owen, the party's parliamentary leader, at Leicester on January 14. He said: "Social Democrats should be very wary of going down the legislative route to industrial reform merely to placate public feeling or even party members' feeling. The latest proposals from Mr Tebbit appear to come some way between Mr Prior's caution and Mrs Thatcher's dogmatism. Like the curate's egg, the proposals are good in parts."

Dr Owen expressed general support for the closed shop proposals and scepticism about the change in union immunities

## The case of the wronged physician

From Peter Watson, New York, Feb 3

Addicts of Sherlock Holmes are in for a big disappointment. A rehabilitation of the reputation of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is under way.

In their adulation of the world's greatest detective, who is regarded as little short of real, it has become the accepted practice of Holmes fans to belittle the role of his creator. Conan Doyle is often referred to as nothing more than Dr Watson's "literary agent," a man who took up a literary career not out of any burning desire to write but because he was a complete failure as a doctor.

But now two Americans, a physician and an historian, have traced all of Conan Doyle's 12 non-fictional medical writings, including his hand-written MD thesis which has never been published, and have compared his scientific conclusions with modern research.

They conclude that Conan Doyle, who was knighted for his services as a doctor during the Boer War, far from being a failure as a physician, accurately predicted a number of important medical developments, to such an extent that, he should, they say, be considered on a par with Sir William Osler, the most famous doctor of Conan Doyle's era, who was later Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford.

The defence of Conan Doyle, which is being led by Dr Aitken Rodin, of Wright State University, at Dayton, Ohio, is not entirely light-hearted. He has the support of Dame Jean Conan Doyle, the author's only surviving daughter who lives in Kent. She too is concerned that the record about her father should be put straight.

Dr Rodin records that in 1884, in a letter to the *Lancet*, Conan Doyle described various unexpected side-effects of gout, including eye disease, and psoriasis (red, scaly patches on the skin). The link between eye disease and gout was confirmed soon after this paper, but the association with psoriasis was not established until much more recently.

He was also the first to record that cases of gout, with or without these side-effects, had occurred in three generations of the same family. Once more, it was not until much later that the heritability of gout was conclusively proved.

In 1890, at an international conference in Germany, Robert Koch caused a sensation by announcing that he had discovered a cure for tuberculosis. This was followed by a large correspondence in the press, allegedly detailing examples of this wonder cure. Conan Doyle went to Berlin to see for himself but wrote a letter to *The Daily Telegraph* advocating caution in regard to the new wonder treatment. He had found, he said, that the substance (the formula for which Koch never revealed) destroyed

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# Government agency backs TUC claim of 4m jobless

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

The Government's jobs agency yesterday supported the trade union movement's claim that the true level of unemployment is about four million.

The Manpower Services Commission indicates in its draft corporate plan for the four years to 1986, that there are at least 750,000 people out of work in addition to the registered total of 3,071,000. Those include people who do not register as unemployed or are involved in special employment schemes.

Commission officials also believe that many people have left the labour force because there are too few vacancies and are no longer seeking work.

When all those factors are taken together it becomes clear that the commission's estimates of current unemployment approach four million, which the TUC has claimed for some time.

The commission's corporate plan, which has been sent for approval to Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, does not expect any big fall in the level of registered unemployment before 1986.

The TUC's annual economic review, published earlier this week, predicted that the total number of jobless would reach five million by 1984. The MSC believes that reducing unemployment will be made more difficult as between 200,000

and 400,000 more people look for work in the next four years. The commission aims to provide more and varied skills training for unemployed people, so the country can cope with the demand for new skills when there is an upturn in the economy.

The commission estimates that in real terms its annual spending will increase from the present £1.185m to £1.93m during 1984-85. It cannot provide estimates for the final year of the corporate plan because the Government's inflation factor is not yet known, but it is certain to take commission spending over £2,000m.

Sir Richard O'Brien, the commission's chairman, said yesterday: "We are doing everything we can to get people out of unemployment and into permanent jobs, temporary work, training opportunities and special programmes for young people. We aim to do more in the next four years."

"The commission cannot solve the economic problems that have brought us to these unemployment levels, but we can help economy to recover through our training programme and by using our employment services to fill employers' vacancies as quickly as possible."

He said the Government had given its support for the first step toward replacing the Youth Opportunities Programme with a more comprehensive training and job preparation scheme. Spending on the new scheme will rise to about £1,500m in 1984/5.

The commission is also concerned about long-term unemployment and the programme to help people who have been out of work for more than 12 months is to be expanded to 30,000 places. Sir Richard said the number of long-term unemployed, now standing at 750,000, will rise to one million later this year and stay at that level for several years.

He said the biggest challenge facing the commission this year was to repeat last year's achievement of offering a Youth Opportunities Programme place to all 15-year-old school leavers by Christmas. The commission expects to offer YOP training and work experience to 630,000 youngsters between this Easter and next.

It is hoped that under the new programmes, no youngster will join the unemployment register at least until the age of 18.

There will also be facilities to help older people already in work to up-date or change their skills.

The commission draws attention to the problems of ethnic minorities, particularly in inner city areas, and it aims to give some priority to special programmes within the overall training initiative for minorities.

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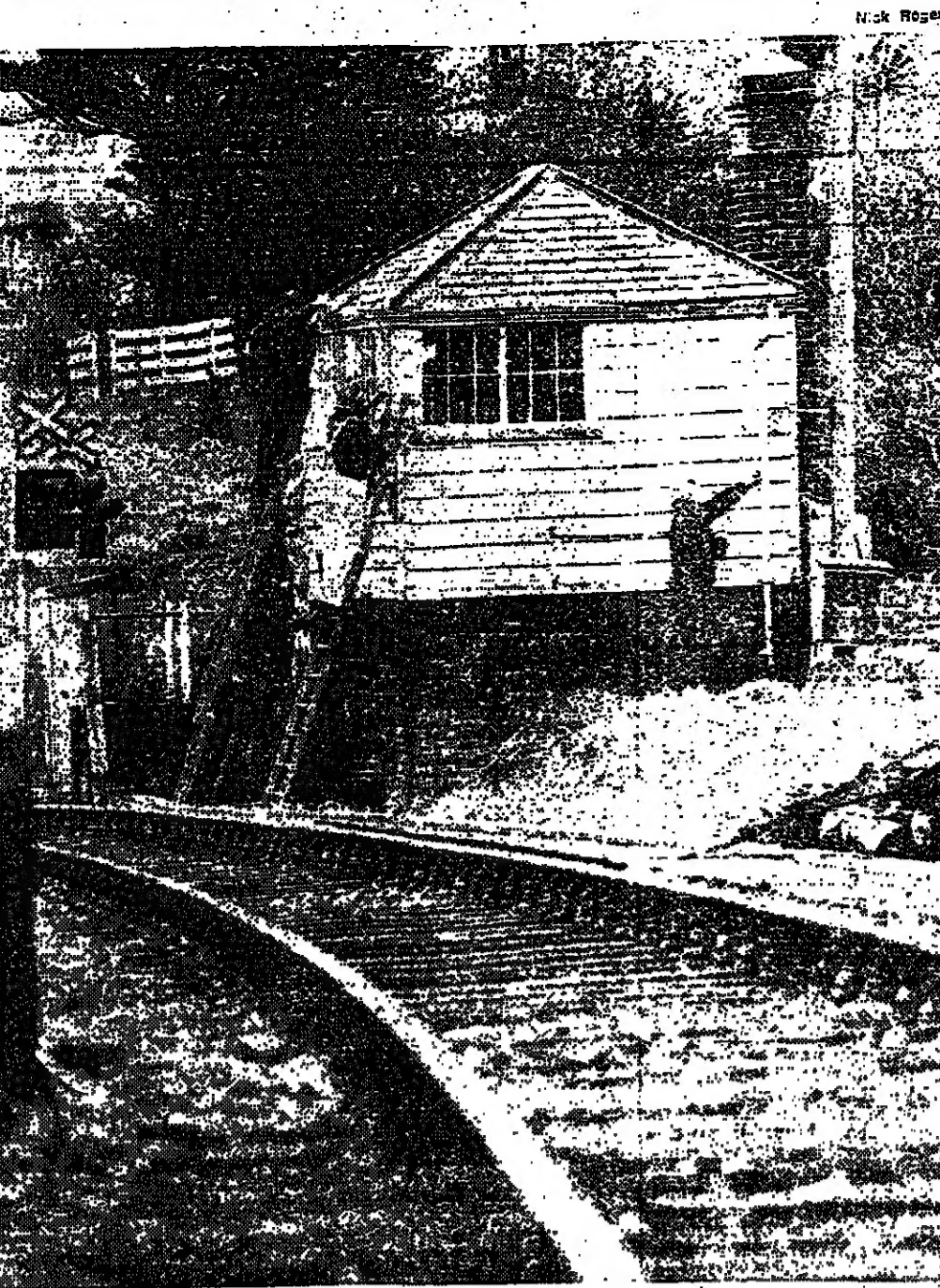
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## Cloud with a silver siding

The future of this weathered, century-old signalbox at Instow, north Devon, has been looking more assured since the national railway strikes began (Craig Seton writes). The dispute may have driven commuters to despair, but the enthusiasts behind the Instow Box Emergency Repair Fund are delighted that it has halted the only train on the track, a lone goods vehicle that passes through Instow twice a day.

The fund set up to save the signalbox, a grade two listed building, found that it could not afford to have repairs carried out while the goods train passed, because British Rail charged £52 a day

for a "flagman" to wave it through. Now, three days a week, no goods train runs through Instow and workmen from a Barnstable contractor can repair the box without incurring the British Rail penalty.

Mr David Norman, secretary of the fund, said yesterday that the rail strike was an unexpected help in the attempt to save the box, built between 1872 and 1874 by London & South West Railways.

"British Rail have been trying to get rid of it for a long time, either by pulling it down or moving it, but we are trying to make sure it does not disappear. Aslef has been helping us along."

## Breast v bottle

### Pamphlets 'break health code'

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

British baby food manufacturers, who have been criticised for their marketing practices in the Third World, are now under attack for their activities at home.

War on Want accuses them of violating a voluntary international code approved by the World Health Assembly in May, 1981, designed to encourage mothers to breast-feed rather than bottle-feed.

Bottle manufacturers are accused for advertising directly to the public, and milk manufacturers are criticised for advertising in health clinics and hospitals, giving free samples and not restricting their promotional literature for doctors to "scientific and factual matters". All four activities violate the code.

War on Want has been campaigning since 1974 to increase the number of mothers breast-feeding after the dangers of bottle-feeding in the Third World, where water is frequently polluted, were highlighted by its report *The Baby Killer*.

Now it has carried out a survey of health workers and mothers in 72 British towns to see whether the code is being followed. It received 150 replies and 1,675 documented incidents of practices in direct contravention of the international code were reported.

Although the code says that there should be no posters, calendars or clinic cards advertising baby milk, in health care facilities, British hospitals and clinics were full of

such materials, its report, published today, says.

Most of the promotion was in leaflets, pamphlets and advertisements in baby care booklets. In all, 1,174 items in 98 different places totally contravened the code.

Cow and Gate, for example, prepared "feeding your baby at home" leaflets, which were distributed to mothers as they left hospital.

One dietician said: "I am very pro-breast feeding. I always encourage that in my talks. However, it is extremely embarrassing when I know that the 'baby books' given out contain adverts for baby milks. The snag is, these books with their adverts are free; whereas we have to pay for other literature."

A health visitor commented that nearly all the material available at her clinic was provided by baby milk companies.

She said: "I am afraid that if the promotional material is removed, it will leave a gap that the Department of Health and Social Security will not fill."

Mr Andrew Chetley, War on Want's health officer, said yesterday: "The report shows that voluntary agreements patently do not work. Unless stronger action is taken, this situation will be unchangeable."

Mr Chetley said that a Department of Health survey in 1975-76 showed that although 51 per cent of women made an attempt at breast-feeding, only 25 per cent continued after two weeks.

There is well documented evidence that a better bond is established between them and this close early relationship will stand the child in good stead in later life.

**Breast or Bottle? Factors influencing the choice of infant feeding in the UK.** War on Want, 467 Caledonian Road, London N7 9BE, £1.

Even in the cleanest household a bottle is more likely than the breast to harbour germs. It has long been known that babies fed on breast milk have a lower incidence of diarrhoea and vomiting due to infection. Human milk also provides protective factors against infection, giving increased immunity to many diseases.

## GLC talks on new race chiefs

By Lucy Hodges

A proposal for four new race relations advisers and three more administrative officers at a cost of £126,000 a year to be considered by the Greater London Council next week.

A paper which will go before the ethnic minorities committee for approval on Monday recommends that the advisers are needed to work in the GLC's new ethnic minorities unit.

One would be concerned with promoting equal opportunities policies in employment and training within the council; the second would be responsible for the economic and employment prospects of blacks in London generally; and the third would work in the field of arts and recreation.

All three posts would be paid between £14,196 and £15,792. The fourth officer would be a senior race relations adviser to work as deputy to Mr Herman Ouseley, the Guyanese-born principal adviser.

Guidelines, which will also be presented for approval next week, will ensure that every department in the council is aware of the racial dimension of its work.

"Officers would have to consider and report on the likely racial impact of (either favourable or negative) of a particular policy, proposal or project, and committees would be in a position to consider these implications," the paper says.

That kind of proposal has been endorsed by the Commission for Racial Equality, Lord Scarman, and the Policy Studies Institute.

Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, is reported to have told a group of senior trade unionists yesterday that time was not on the side of the Government in its efforts to deal with race relations.

The TUC delegation pressed Mr Whitelaw to say what he thought might happen this summer in the inner cities. The Home Secretary refused to be drawn. But he did say: "Time is not on our side."

After the meeting Mr Kenneth Gill, general secretary of the white-collar section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, said it had been a disappointing though affable session. "We expressed our surprise and dismay that the sense of urgency that seemed widespread last summer had dribbled away," he said.

The Home Secretary was reported to be unenthusiastic about making racial discrimination a disciplinary offence for police officers, normally punishable by dismissal, as recommended by Lord Scarman in his report on the Brixton riots. Neither did he appear enthusiastic about independent investigation of complaints against the police.

## Sinn Fein to fight Irish elections

From Richard Ford, Dublin

Provisional Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, is to field candidates in the Irish general election for the first time in more than 20 years. It is also considering contesting any election for an assembly in Northern Ireland that might be proposed as part of Mr James Prior's initiative.

One of their candidates standing for election to the Dail, the republic's parliament, is Mr Seamus McElwain, aged 22, who is on remand in Crumlin Road Jail, Belfast, facing charges of murdering full-time members of the Ulster Defence Regiment, IRA, membership and possession of guns.

Another, Mr John McGirl, is the uncle of Francis McGirl, the labourer acquitted of the murder of Lord Mountbatten of Burma.

However, if any Provisional Sinn Fein candidate is elected he will not take his seat in the Dail but will follow the example of Mr Owen Carron, the MP for Fermanagh, South Tyrone, at Westminster, by doing only constituency work.

Mr Rory O'Brady, president of Provisional Sinn Fein, said the organisation was going into the election to capitalize on the political developments of last year when Mr Robert Sands, the Maze hunger striker, won a seat at Fermanagh, south Tyrone, and later the success of his election agent, Mr Carron. In last year's Irish General Election another hunger striker, Mr Keiran Docherty, won a seat as did Mr Paddy Agnew, a Maze prisoner.

The Provisional Sinn Fein manifesto says its primary aim is British withdrawal and the

establishment of a democratic socialist republic. Mr David O'Connell, vice-president of the political wing and director of the election, dismissed the issue of the Budget, which has dominated the campaign since the fall of the coalition, as irrelevant.

The constituencies chosen by the Provisional Sinn Fein are: Sligo, Leitrim, where Mr John McGirl, aged 60, was elected an MP in the Irish general election in 1957 while he was interned; Cavan Monaghan, the seat won by Mr Kieran Docherty, where Mr McGirl will stand; Co Louth, now held by Mr Paddy Agnew, who is not standing again, will be contested by Mr Francis Browne, aged 36, a local councillor; Wexford, to be contested by Mr Sean Doyle, aged 45, a nurse and local councillor; and Dublin Central, where Mr Christy Burke, aged 33, will stand.

The Official Unionist Party in Northern Ireland will decide tonight on its candidate for the Belfast South, by-election which is to be held after the murder in November by the Provisional IRA of Mr Robert Bradford, MP (Tim Jones writes from Belfast).

Unofficial talks between the Official Unionists and the Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party aimed at uniting the "loyalist" vote have apparently broken down and the by-election will give Sinn Fein a crucial insight into the political mood of the province.

Army bomb disposal experts last night defused a 600lb booby trap bomb at Camlough, South Armagh, allowing 100 families who had been evacuated to return to their homes.

The Provisional Sinn Fein manifesto says its primary aim is British withdrawal and the

## £8m MUSIC COLLEGE PROJECT

By Christopher Warman Arts Correspondent

The Royal College of Music, which celebrates its centenary this year, is to launch an appeal later this month for £8m to equip the college with new buildings and provide funds for scholarships and accommodation.

The college, in Prince Consort Road, Kensington, west London, was founded by the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII. The present Prince of Wales is president of the centenary appeal committee. The appeal begins with a service in Westminster Abbey on February 28.

The first stage of the building development programme, estimated to cost £2.75m, includes a new opera theatre, library complex, students' common room and other facilities.

## STEELMEN'S OVERTIME BAN LIFTED

By Our Labour Editor

Steel union leaders yesterday called off a national overtime ban, due to begin on Monday after reaching a compromise wage deal for 42,000 production workers.

The Iron and Steel Trades Confederation signed an agreement with the British Steel Corporation for 1982 that rules out a general increase across the board in favour of locally-determined productivity bonuses linked to output.

But BSC management and all the industry's unions will meet in August with a view to consolidating a proportion of the extra cash.

Yesterday's deal brings the ISTC into line with other unions that had already accepted the controversial shift away from national bargaining to local incentive schemes in state steel.

## LAWYER MP MUST PAY DAMAGES

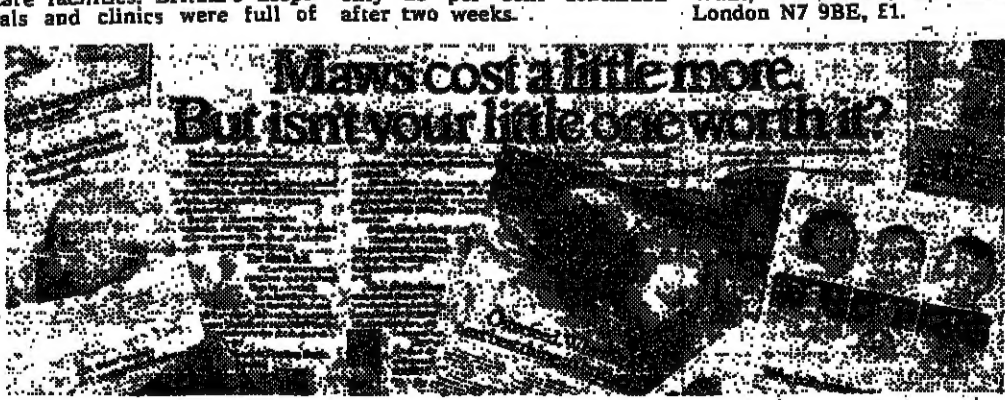
From Arthur Osman Birmingham

Mr Delwyn Williams, Conservative MP for Montgomery and a solicitor, was ordered in the High Court at Birmingham yesterday to pay £1873 damages to a former client for negligently handling a land and building transaction.

Later Mr Williams said that Mr Colin Biffen, aged 48, the successful plaintiff who is physically handicapped, had been funded by politically motivated opponents.

Mr Biffen, of Mill Street, Ashton-on-Clun, Shropshire, said: "Absolute rubbish—I borrowed the money from my mother."

In his judgment, Mr Piers Ashworth, QC, sitting as deputy high court judge, said Mr Williams had been described as cavalier in his treatment of the plaintiff's affairs. "I regret to say that is the impression I have also formed," he said. Mr Williams denied negligence.



## London Transport 'needs state control'

By Michael Bailey, Transport Correspondent

London Transport should be taken away from the Greater London Council and put back under the control of central government, Sir Peter Masefield, the London Transport chairman, said last night.

The instability under which London Transport had operated during the past 10 years had been traumatic, Sir Peter told the all-party Commons transport committee. The experiences of the past 18 months showed that a radical reorganisation was overdue.

The system of executive committees at the GLC was unequal to the problems of transport, and a transfer of ownership to the Department of Transport would be "wholly beneficial".

Sir Peter said he was criticising the system, not individuals at the GLC. "So much top-level time was devoted to producing papers for the GLC that London Transport could not manage its business properly."

The "Fares Fair" policy and the actions of the GLC and the law lords had put London Transport in a position of breaking the law if it held fares and also if it raised them next month. "We do not know where we stand," Sir Peter said.

A 32 per cent fare cut had produced 10 per cent more traffic, or 12 per cent compared with a 2 per cent loss that would probably have occurred otherwise.

But in the last three months of last year the policy had cost £31m and London Transport had "very reluctantly" decided to double fares on

March 21. That would bring in £156m and cause an 18 per cent loss of traffic. There would still be a deficit of £125m in 1982.

He hoped there would be no further fare rise this year but there would be without the required subsidy. Traffic lost from public transport as a result of the higher fares would go partly to the private car, resulting in more congestion, partly to people not making journeys at all.

Higher fares would be detrimental to London, Sir Peter said. The low fares had been no higher than in other capitals. He called for a new subsidy to public transport throughout London and the South-East based on the £1 grant for every £1 earned through fares.

## Opposition pledge on revising pensions

By Anthony Bevins Political Correspondent

A Labour commitment to increase pensions twice a year in times of high inflation is expected to be delivered in the House of Commons this afternoon.

The House will be debating an Opposition motion "on the need to improve the lot of the elderly", and Labour leaders have agreed that they will need to spell out their own proposals.

It is understood that the twice-yearly uprating of pensions would apply when inflation was running in double figures, but ministers and MPs on all sides of the Commons will keep a careful watch on the qualifications and costings built into the proposal. The Opposition will stress, however, that whatever they put forward, it is bound to contrast well with the Government's own record.

The Department of Health and Social Security announced last week that it hoped to save £500m in the coming financial year from its 1980 Social Security Act provision, "keeping pensions and long term benefits in line with prices rather than with the higher of prices or earnings."

Other measures expected as part of the Opposition package include a proposal for a national concessionary fares scheme for pensioners, a reduced death grant without means test, of about £200, and a Christmas bonus doubled to £20 with inbuilt inflation-proofing.

Mr Brynmor John, Labour's frontbench spokesman, will also attempt to contrast the sensitivity of the Opposition to the problems faced by the elderly with the attitude taken by the Prime Minister.

The state social security budget has become a Frankenstein monster absorbing more than 22 per cent of earnings and costing £50 per week in contributions from higher paid employees, compared with 14 per cent in 1975, Mr Dryden Gilling Smith, a pensions consultant, said yesterday (Lourna writes).

Mr Gilling Smith called for the winding up of the state earnings-related pension scheme, which he called a "swindle".

Speaking at a Financial Times pensions conference, Mr Gilling Smith said that the original Beveridge Report in 1942 recommended a combined employer/employee National Insurance contribution of 7s 6d per week. "Even with inflation since then and multiplying the figure by the cost of living, the maximum contribution should only be around £7.50 a week and not £50," he said.

A plea that pensioners should be protected from having their fuel supplies disconnected throughout the year rather than only in the winter months will be made today by Age Concern (our Social Services Correspondent writes).

## BL PEACE TALKS BREAK DOWN

Talks in London on the two-week strike by 13,500 workers at BL plants in Chertsey and Leyland, Lancashire, and Bathgate, Scotland, ended in deadlock last night.

The management has said that unless the strike, over plans to cut 4,000 jobs and end the curbs on the trucking operation could be at risk.

Details of the talks will be put to mass meetings today. The two sides do not intend meeting until February 15.

## Redundancy conditions set for universities

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

The University Grants Committee (UGC) wrote to universities yesterday guaranteeing to reimburse in full the cost of compensation to academic staff made redundant because of cuts in grants provided that the payments are no greater than those agreed by the Government, and that redundancies are "consistent with academic planning."

What is meant by the phrase "consistent with academic planning" has been left unclear, but it is understood that the UGC might refuse to pay for staff made redundant in departments that are being closed or reduced against the UGC's wishes, as expressed in individual letters to universities last July.

Yesterday's letter states that the committee will not reimburse universities for redundancy or early retirement payments that are more generous than those approved by the Government under the national redundancy scheme for universities.

It is reasonable to expect that pupils should adopt more adult attitudes to school at the beginning of the fourth year (the age of 14), the report says, but too often evidence of failure by young people to conform to these expectations is ignored.

The report calls for frequent, regular monitoring of pupil progress. The early recognition of disaffection is essential, it says.

Years IV and V in Comprehensive Schools. (Welsh Office, Education Department, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NQ, Free).

## Science report

### Avoiding rejection of tissue transplants

By the Staff of "Nature"

Improvements in the success rate of tissue transplantation may eventually follow a new observation of the mechanism by which grafted tissue or organs are so often rejected.

It was originally thought that graft rejection results essentially from direct recognition of the transplanted tissue by T lymphocytes, the cells of the immune system which are instrumental in many immune responses. However, experiments with a rather chequered history have more recently tended to show that transplants may also carry a seed of their own destruction, since the chances of rejection are reduced merely by culturing them in the laboratory for a period before transplantation.

Dr Willys Silvers and his colleagues at the University of Pennsylvania have shed some light on why this should be so. They worked on the assumption that the value of culturing the intended transplants is that it leads to the death of macrophages. These are cells which are present in any fresh tissue, since one of their roles is to patrol the tissue, scavenging dead or dying cells.

From what is known about more precise functions of macrophages, it is suspected that they play an unwitting role in presenting the tissue with which they are transplanted to the immune system of the recipient, in such a way that the tissue is recognized as foreign and rejected. Through novel skin-grafting experiments between different strains of mice, Dr Silvers's work has indicated that these proposals and made clearer the mechanism involved.

To guard against destructive immune responses towards its own tissue, the body carries an elaborate system of molecules, acting as a marker of self identity, on the surface of nearly all of its cells. These molecules are centrally involved in the process of presentation of foreign material by macrophages to T lymphocytes. Were this process to be involved in tissue rejection, then when strain E mice rejected a transplant of fresh skin from strain A, it would be partly because the transplants carried macrophages with strain A type marker molecules, allowing them to present the skin cells as foreign material to the T lymphocytes of the recipient.

Experiments suggest that grafts of skin grafts are dependent on some sharing of self marker molecules between those found on the cells of the graft and those found on the macrophages. If they carry a different set of marker molecules, the recipient's immune system will reject the graft. Therefore, if donor macrophages could be eliminated by culturing tissue before transplantation or blocked by some other means, without damage to the tissue, transplantation between genetically different individuals could become more successful than at present.

Source: *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, USA (Volume 79, page 171, January, 1982).

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# BIG FLEET DEAL FOR NEW ROVERS.

Only a few days after they were launched, 175 Rovers - worth £1.5m - have been chosen by Swan National to spearhead its hire fleet.

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80% of Rover sales come directly from business users and the new Rover's all-round economy and low running costs make it especially appealing to today's executive.

**BL Fighting back**

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Protest at dance floor rule

From Our Correspondent Sheffield

Mr Peter Wigley, Sheffield's chief publicity officer, yesterday protested against a ruling by the city's licensing magistrates that dancers in night clubs should have more room along the lines of the old-fashioned ballroom floors (Our Sheffield Correspondent writes). "We sell the city partly on its nightlife, and this ruling could have a far-reaching effect," he said. The magistrates ruled that nightclubs should provide a dance floor big enough to accommodate half the patrons at any one time, but few clubs have floors of such size.

Ex-mayor faces theft charge

Mr Richard Soudick, aged 46, of Victoria Road North, Portsmouth, a solicitor and former lord mayor of the city, appeared before Havant magistrates yesterday jointly charged with the theft of £1,600 from John Willmott (Guernsey) Ltd.

Mr Anthony Savage, aged 49, a property consultant, of Routes Merriennes, St Martins, Guernsey, faced the same charge, and a number of others, including obtaining money by deception, jointly with Mr Soudick. Mr Soudick, aged 46, former company secretary, of Hill Head, Hampshire, and Mr Patrick O'Sullivan, aged 34, banker, of St Saviours, Guernsey. The case was adjourned until May 4.

New Forest oil inquiry adjourns

The first part of the public inquiry into Shell's application to drill for oil at the Denny Inshore in the New Forest ended yesterday after three and a half weeks of evidence. The inquiry is expected to reopen in April after modifications to the south-west Hampshire structure plan have been made public.

Shell intends to drill for three months, probably in 1983 and 1984, and to restore the site. The inquiry will reopen on May 4 (not April as previously stated).

Walkout over youth's red hair

Twenty-five garage workers walked out yesterday after Mr Barry Thurman, an apprentice mechanic, was suspended for dyeing his hair bright red to match his punk rock group's image. Mr Thurman, aged 18, said his offer to wear a hat at T. C. Harrisons of Rotherham, South Yorkshire, had been refused. The garage general manager declined to comment.

Winning soldier

Staff Sergeant Graham Motley, aged 33, of the Royal Army Medical Corps, who has won £574,884 from Littlewoods football pools, said yesterday that he intended to stay in the army. A Kent man who won £578,895 decided to remain anonymous.

Chaplain dies

Father Francis Gresham, aged 48, who has been coordinating arrangements for the Pope's visit to York in May, has died after collapsing while playing squash at the city's university, where he was a chaplain.

Toxteth ambush

A police patrol car was ambushed in the city of Toxteth, Liverpool, yesterday.

Test of evidence against police outlined by DPP

By Peter Evans Home Affairs Correspondent

The Director of Public Prosecutions prosecutes in only two per cent of complaints of assault by police referred to him. Mr Peter Barnes, his deputy, told the House of Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs yesterday.

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, is considering proposals for a Bill to reform the complaints system in the wake of the Scarman report into the Brixton riots.

The average number of prosecutions a year between 1975 and 1979 was 47 out of 2,664 complaints of assault annually. Only 22 of the prosecutions resulted in convictions. Mr Barnes said that the number of serious assaults annually had been put at between 150 and 300 cases.

Mr Thomas Hetherington QC, the DPP, said in evidence that the main test in all cases submitted to him was whether there was a reasonable prospect of conviction on the basis of the evidence.

"It should, I suggest, occasion no surprise that, despite the thoroughness of the investigation, this evidential test is satisfied in only a small percentage of cases. Often it is a case of 'oath against oath', but there are various other reasons why the evidence is so often insufficient."

On occasions, when he was satisfied the evidence was sufficient but the case more suitable for disciplinary action, he advised the Deputy Chief Constable to discipline the officer.

Sir Thomas is against the idea that inquiries now carried out by police into complaints should be taken over by independent investigators. He said it would be difficult to recruit enough of

them and they would be at a disadvantage, compared with senior police officers, in trying to get at the truth.

Sir Thomas also criticized proposals for the appointment of a non-police supervisor or assessor of investigations.

The change "might cause delays in the investigation", he said. There could be duplication of effort with officers in his department, who had to satisfy themselves that all proper inquiries had been made before the file was passed to them. There might also be a conflict between the assessor's duties and the DPP's statutory role.

The Association of Chief Police Officers told the committee it was reluctant to accept that further change in the system was necessary or desirable. However, if it was politically impossible to maintain the status quo, the use of a non-police supervisor could be a workable solution.

A total of 69 per cent of young offenders are reconvicted within two years of discharge from custody and the new Criminal Justice Bill is likely to increase the number of young people sent to penal establishments, it was suggested yesterday.

The younger the offender, the more likely he was to find himself back in custody. Miss Vivien Stern, director of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, said.

Marking the publication of a NACRO briefing paper, *Characteristics of Young Offenders*, she said 83 per cent of those under 17 sent to borstal and 76 per cent of that age group sent to detention centres were reconvicted within two years.

The conviction rate showed that custodial measures were not an effective answer to teenage crime.

Judge to be reported to lawyers' ruling body

By Nicholas Timmins

Judge Lord Dunboyne, who on Monday criticized defence counsel for time wasting and praised the police for mainly restraint in causing relatively minor injuries to a black youth, is to be reported to the senate of the Inns of Court, the barristers' governing body.

Mr Sibhat Kadri, the defence counsel, who is joint chairman of the Society of Black Lawyers, said yesterday he would ask the group to raise the matter with the senate, and would also report it himself. A motion calling for the removal of Judge Lord Dunboyne is also to be put to the annual meeting of the society tomorrow.

Mr Kadri said that the judge had made it clear to the jury that, if it was left to him, the defendant would have been convicted within minutes. In fact he was acquitted of assault on the police. "The verdict spoke for itself," Mr Kadri said.

It was obvious that the defendant had been set upon by a large number of police officers, yet the judge had praised the police for restraint. "The misfortune is that when black youngsters read that in the newspapers, particularly when they have followed the case, they will say: 'What justice? The judge still thinks we are guilty'."

In the incident, Mr Anthony Amos, aged 20, hit the finger of a Special Patrol Group officer to the bone during what he described as a life and death struggle after he had allegedly thrown a brick at the police during the Brixton riots. He pleaded self-defence and was acquitted of assault but he was convicted of possessing an offensive weapon, the brick, and sentenced to three months at a detention centre.

Judge Lord Dunboyne criticized Mr Kadri for unnecessarily prolonging the defence case by the use of the taxing officer that may result in Mr Kadri's fees being cut.



End of an era: Mr Victor Grange, manager of Gallyon and Son's King's Lynn branch, the Queen's gunsmiths, which closes on February 20. The firm supplies Sandringham and has held the Royal Warrant since the 1940s.

Navy 'too slow in ordering ships'

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

British Shipbuilders, the state-owned company, may have to make 45 per cent of its workforce redundant unless the Navy orders some ships quickly, MPs were told yesterday.

The number of job losses could be cut from nearly 16,000 of the 33,000 work force to about 2,700 by a plan which involves diversification of work at some shipyards and heavy reliance upon export orders.

But the building of new warships with export potential is being hampered by the slowness of the Ministry of Defence in reaching decisions, as projects pass through a "labyrinth of administrative snakes and ladders" in Whitehall.

The Navy's seal of approval, in the form of orders, would boost the export chances of the proposed new £50m Type-23 frigate, whose design is still being debated

within the ministry. But BS has been told it cannot expect even a letter of intent from the Government until the spring.

British Shipbuilders' executives told the Commons Defence Committee they desperately wanted orders for the Type-23 and for the Type-2400 conventionally powered submarine. They feared that by the time the Navy had finished with the designs they would be too expensive for foreign buyers. Sometimes, they said, it takes the Navy up to six years before they ordered a ship.

Mr Robert Atkinson, chairman of BS, and three of his top executives, were giving evidence to the committee after seeing Navy orders reduced from an average of £440m to only £250m last year.

Mr Atkinson said: "Unless we get orders we will have to

eliminate a national capability, with the loss of a skilled workforce we cannot replace, because we could not keep them on the pay-roll. We are told that financial constraints lie behind it. But we also have our financial constraints. I consider it is one of my tasks to protect a national asset."

Britain's record in selling large warships like the £120m Type-22 frigate, was abysmal, he said. The market had been captured by countries like West Germany, The Netherlands, Italy and France who built cheaper warships and coordinated their export drive more effectively.

The ministry's order for the Type-2400 submarine, which would sell well to countries like Australia or Argentina, was promised in mid-1983. Three years ago the projected date had been mid-82.

Gassing of badgers spreads to Wales

By Hugh Clayton Environment Correspondent

The gassing of badgers to control cattle disease has spread to Wales and may start this year in English counties remote from the main centres of the disease.

The Welsh Office said yesterday that 27 sets had been gassed in the principality in recent months. Government scientists have begun trapping badgers without killing them in the Midlands because of several cases of tuberculosis in cattle near Ipstones, Staffordshire.

Badgers will also be examined further south because the disease has appeared recently in two cattle herds near Haslemere, Surrey, and in one to the north of Eastbourne, East Sussex. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food reported yesterday that the number of diseased cattle in south-west England rose slightly last year in spite of the resumption of gassing there late in 1980.

The Government stopped gassing late in 1979 because of bitter opposition from naturalists who claimed that infection of cattle by badgers had not been proved. Gassing resumed when Lord Zuckerman, after an investigation, said the disease threatened the survival of badgers as well as the health of cattle.

The ministry said yesterday that the number of diseased cattle rose from 343 in 1979 to 635 in 1980, when gassing was banned for most of the year. It rose to 648 last year even though gassing had resumed. The Government gives little publicity to the gassing campaign because demonstrators have sometimes prevented its field officers from pumping gas into sets.

Lord Zuckerman concentrated in his report almost entirely on south-west England. The disease is still common near Land's End, in much of Avon and in the Cotswolds.

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Businessmen might prefer to make contact through the Export Sections of the Departments of Industry and Trade offices in the following cities: London, Newcastle upon Tyne, Leeds, Birmingham, Manchester, Nottingham and Bristol.

The Welsh Office in Cardiff, the Scottish Office in Glasgow and the Northern Ireland Department of Commerce in Belfast also act as BOTB regional offices. They, like their English regional equivalents, are all in direct contact with our newly reorganised headquarters in London.

**BOTB**

ONE BLOW 'KILLED' FRAIL CHILD

From Our Correspondent Liverpool

Gillian Lawson aged two, died from a single blow when she would not go to bed, Liverpool Crown Court was told yesterday.

The child died in an ambulance hours after being struck by John Rowlands, the court was told. Mr Rowlands, aged 22, of Fellbeach Close, Birkenhead, denies manslaughter.

The court was told that the child was frail and had weighed 3lb 10oz at birth. Mrs Susan Lawson, who lives with Mr Rowlands, said her daughter would fall at the slightest push and needed physiotherapy for her legs.

Miss Heather Steel, for the prosecution, read a statement by Mr Rowlands about the night he was left in charge of Gillian and her sister Kelly, aged three.

In it he allegedly said: "I got mad with the children because they would not go to bed. I pushed Gillian and she fell over. I got mad and I hit her."

The case was adjourned until today.



PC making good recovery

Hundreds of get-well messages have been sent to Police Constable Ian Bennett who is recovering in Bristol Royal Infirmary from injuries suffered in violence in the St Paul's area of the city last weekend.

His wife, Carol, shown at his bedside yesterday, said: "Ian is much better and I have been reading the cards to him." Many messages have come from people in St

Paul's where PC Bennett was a community policeman and popular local figure. Members of the coloured community have called to see how he is.

PC Bennett received a fractured skull and eye injuries when a bottle was thrown at him during gang fights on Saturday. Hospital officials said he was making a good recovery.

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## Billy Bremner is awarded £100,000 in libel damages

Billy Bremner, the former Leeds and Scotland footballer, was awarded £100,000 damages by a High Court jury in London yesterday over newspaper allegations that he had offered bribes to "fix" matches.

The jury of seven men and five women decided after a two-hour retirement that the *Sunday People* was not justified in making the accusations.

The publishers, Odhams Newspapers, and Danny Hegan, the former Wolves player, were ordered to pay the damages and also costs of the seven-day hearing, estimated to more than £60,000.

The libel award is one of the highest awarded in the High Court.

Hegan told a reporter and repeated in evidence that Mr Bremner offered him a "grand" to give away a penalty in a championship-deciding Leeds v Wolves game in 1972.

Mr Bremner, aged 39, of Maltby, near Rotherham, who now manages Doncaster Rovers, in the Third Division, said he was delighted with the verdict, adding: "It's been the longest six days of my life."

A lawyer for Odhams said they were considering an appeal over the amount of the damages.

Mr Bremner denied in evidence that he had ever offered a bribe to a footballer or attempted to fix a match.

Mr Patrick Milmo, his counsel, had asked for large damages to compensate Mr Bremner for injury to his reputation and distress caused to him and his family.

Mr Bremner had told the jury that he gave up his playing career because of jibes from the terraces at away matches that he fixed games.

He said his children had also been taunted at school that their father was "a fixer" and similar accusations were made to his wife when she was shopping.

Evidence in support of Mr Bremner's case was given by his former team-mates, Johnny Giles, now player-manager of Shamrock Rovers, Jackie Charlton, manager of Sheffield Wednesday, Allan Clarke, manager of Leeds, and Derek Dougan, the Scottish International.

Mr Dougan, chairman of the Professional Footballers' Association, was a former team-mate at Wolves of Mr Hegan, who made the allegations against Mr Bremner in the *Sunday People* in 1977.

Mr Dougan, who scored the goal which prevented Leeds from winning the vital game against Wolves in May, 1972, and clinching the Cup and League Championship "double", said he never heard any members of the Leeds team or anyone connected with them offer bribes to Wolves players.

Johnny Giles, said the bribes allegations were "Ludicrous".

Allan Clarke said he was "absolutely disgusted" by the article. The allegations were "total nonsense", Jack Charlton said.

For the defence, evidence was given by Danny Hegan, Frank Munro, his former Wolves team-mate, Bill McAdams, and Gary Sprake, former Leeds players, and by two journalists.

Mr Hegan, now unemployed and living at Coatbridge in Scotland, told the jury that during the Wolves v Leeds game Bremner had said to him: "Give us a penalty, wee man, and I will give you a grand."

Frank Munro, Wolves skipper in the match, said Mr Bremner offered him £5,000 to give away a penalty.

Mr Munro, now living in Australia, agreed that the *Sunday People* had paid £4,000 in air fares to bring him and his family back to Britain on a visit.

Mr McAdams, aged 48, now a lorry driver living in Mitcham, Surrey, told the jury that Don Revie, then Leeds manager, told the Leeds team before a match against Southampton, in 1962, that he had "fixed" one of the Southampton players to get a result.

The "fix" involved Billy Bremner, Mr McAdams said.

Gary Sprake, aged 38, the former Leeds goalkeeper, now retired from football and living in Solihull, also said that Mr Bremner was sent by Mr Revie to "fix" a Nottingham Forest player in May, 1971.

Mr Justice Bristow told the jury that the *Sunday People* was, in effect, accusing Billy Bremner of three offences of corruption for each of which he could, at a criminal trial, be liable to two years' imprisonment.

"You will no doubt think long and hard before you find Billy Bremner guilty of corruption," the judge advised.

Billy Bremner was for a time Britain's highest paid mid-fielder. His earnings at Leeds in 1974 were reported to total nearly £100,000.

## Inquest on Moonie follower is halted

A coroner yesterday stopped an inquest into the death of a man involved with the Moonies and told the police he was not satisfied with their investigation.

Mr Leslie Tos, aged 29, a gardener, of Kimberley Road, Stockwell, south London, drowned in the Thames last month. He was described by Mrs June Attard, his sister, as a frightened man.

"He would sleep in a chair in the front room with the curtains open because someone might be coming for him. He was very nervous and he would sometimes go to the front door with a pitchfork in his hand," she said.

Dr Paul Knapman, the Westminster coroner, was told that Mr Tos was seen floating under Battersea Bridge clinging to his rucksack and shouting for help, but when constable Charles Lowther arrived at Albert Bridge he could see only the rucksack.

Professor Keith Simpson, the pathologist, said there were no marks on the body to suggest that Mr Tos had been thrown into the water and he was sure Mr Tos was alive when he entered the river.

Dr Knapman stopped the hearing, saying: "This man was shouting and making a noise while he was in the water. This is not the sort of behaviour one would expect from a man who wanted to kill himself. This case has not been sufficiently investigated by the CID so I am stopping it here and now."

"I don't think it would be right to record an open verdict in view of his sister's evidence. I would like the CID to interview the relevant parties in this case; so far they have done nothing."

The hearing resumes on March 17.

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## BBC unhappy about complaint ruling

The BBC expressed dissatisfaction yesterday with the way the Broadcasting Complaints Commission took evidence in a case concerning the Checkpoint consumer affairs programme on Radio 4.

After an adjudication against the programme, which the BBC accepts, Mr David Barlow, secretary of the corporation, is to seek an early meeting with the commission. Procedures for taking evidence deserve further study, the BBC says.

Mr John Edwards, producer of Checkpoint, said he was totally mystified by the commission's rules of procedure. "They do not seem to exist," he said. "And we do not understand the basis on which they accept or reject evidence. We were not given an uninterrupted opportunity to present our case."

The programme's lawyers are understood to have expressed the view that in a court of law the programme would have won "hands down".

The complaint is the first to be upheld against Checkpoint and the programme

staff are said to feel they were unlucky.

The complaint was made by Mr Peter Holt, director of the Emperor Theatre at Chiswick, west London. Checkpoint broadcast an item last August about the activities of a Miss Jan Kerby (formerly Dutton), against whose defunct theatrical agency they had received allegations of financial mismanagement.

Mr Holt's complaint fell into two parts and the commission upheld both. It said the Checkpoint team was justified in investigating the matters complained of but did not consider they were investigated in sufficient depth to justify associating the theatre with the allegations of financial mismanagement made against Miss Kerby in respect of her defunct agency.

Nor was the programme's implication justified that actor and actresses were in danger of being treated unfairly.

Mr Harry Marks, secretary of the commission, did not wish to comment on the BBC's statement.

## Landlord ordered to jail for contempt

Mr Roy Cutler, aged 68, a west London landlord and brother of Sir Horace Cutler, the former GLC leader, was ordered by a High Court judge yesterday to be jailed for six weeks for contempt of court.

Mr Cutler had failed to obey court orders to provide the names of tenants living in a sub-standard block of flats which the local authority wants to demolish.

About 15 tenants are still living in Brook House, West Drayton, described in the High Court as "unfit for human habitation" by Mr Richard Walker, counsel for Hillingdon Borough Council.

Mr Cutler, of Alexandra Avenue, South Harrow, was not in court yesterday when the six-week prison commitment order was made.

Mr Justice Hodgson was told that Mr Cutler had so far provided only seven names, claiming he did not know the rest. The council required all the names to bring county court proceedings aimed at having the building demolished.

Mr Cutler sent a note to the court claiming he had to go into hospital yesterday for

an emergency knee operation. But Mr Walker said the hospital had no record of any appointment, adding: "What is plainly happening, and it has been going on for ten years, is that he wants to hold out as long as possible and not comply with the demolition order."

Mr Cutler was ordered by the court last November to provide the names of tenants. Last Thursday he was given until yesterday to comply fully with the order.

"It seems clear he is not going to comply until he is in prison. But he has been in prison before, and I do not know how much good it will do" the judge said.

World Cup case

The Football Association and the Football League yesterday began a High Court action to stop the alleged unlicensed use of their 1982 World Cup emblem Bulldog Bobby on tee shirts sold in the North of England. The case was adjourned until Friday.

After an exciting day at work when the adrenalin has been flowing, does a feeling of despondency creep over you with the thought of the drive home?

Does the exhilaration of the day come to a sudden halt, the moment you step into your car?

Yet, you know there are certain cars in the world, that send the blood racing through the veins, even with a quick glimpse of them in a car park.

The Saab Turbo must be one such car. From its long low bonnet to its sporty rear spoiler, it simply exudes power. The kind of power you'd normally associate with extremely expensive two-seater sports cars.

Yet, although you've got a hundred and forty-five horse power under your bonnet, you've got the spacious comfort of a luxury five-seater saloon for under £11,500.

The special Saab turbo engine technology (it's as closely guarded as the blend of an ancient malt whisky) has developed an engine, that not only gives you a rapid surge of power, but a rare quality of smoothness usually reserved for expensive six-cylinder engines.

It is this smoothness, combined with the extremely low wind and road noise, that puts the Saab Turbo into a class of its own. In fact, in a Turbo, you could be forgiven for imagining you're serenely cruising across the sky 30,000 feet up.

There's also a hint of our aviation background in the aircraft precision of the instrumentation layout, and visibility.

And the positive way it handles, even at 122 mph.

Yet with all its very impressive acceleration, it's surprisingly economical. You can actually enjoy 34 miles per gallon, at a constant 56 miles per hour.

Which just goes to prove that not all power corrupts.

SAAB TURBO

## NEWS IN SUMMARY

### Vandals end use of rescue kit

A big wooden box containing mountain rescue equipment in case of emergencies in the Lake District has been so vandalized that it has been brought down. The Mountain Rescue Committee of England and Wales is being recommended not to replace it.

The box, at the eastern end of Striding Edge, Helvellyn was donated by Barrow Mountaineering club eight years ago as a memorial to a stretcher, casualty bag, first-aid equipment and splints, supplied by the mountain rescue committee.

Mr Joe Boothroyd, leader of the Peak District mountain rescue team, said the stretcher was vandalized three years ago and had to be replaced. The box was also badly damaged and had to be rebuilt.

"Since then it has been vandalized beyond recognition. We are recommending that neither be replaced," Mr Boothroyd said.

### Navy to sell its only hydrofoil

The Royal Navy is to sell its only hydrofoil, the 117-ton HMS Speedy, bought from the United States in 1980 and converted at a cost of £7.5m.

The craft was under trial as a high speed fisheries and oil rig protection vessel, but North Sea conditions have been found to be too severe for it. Whitehall officials said yesterday. Her range, endurance and maintenance has disappointed the Navy.

### Police talk man out of suicide

Three policemen spent 80 minutes on a 150 foot crane in a Plymouth car park yesterday coaxing down a man who was threatening to jump.

Constable Keith Steward, constable Chris May and constable Geoffrey Symes persuaded the man, aged 31, to climb down after a woman he was asking to see arrived at the car park. The man was taken into police care.

### Murder trial

Daniel Rosenthal, aged 27, of Nordkirk Gardens, Hedge End, Southampton, was committed at Eastleigh Magistrates' Court yesterday for trial at Winchester Crown Court, charged with the murder of his mother, aged 60.

Mr Rosenthal was committed to stand trial at Winchester Crown Court, charged with the murder of his mother, aged 60.

# DO YOU GET A FEELING OF POWER WHEN YOU LEAVE THE OFFICE?





NEWS IN SUMMARY

Nato denies US troop withdrawals

Nato has firmly denied a report in Die Welt newspaper, that the American Administration may be considering big withdrawals of American troops from West Germany. Senior Nato officials in Brussels said that the Pentagon may be considering whether some American forces could be used elsewhere in emergencies. If so, the officials maintain, their removal would be only temporary, along the lines of British Rhine army battalions being used in Northern Ireland.

The report in Die Welt quoting Nato sources, says the aim of the study was to protect American interests worldwide by strengthening air and naval forces with a highly mobile deployment force ready to strike anywhere at short notice.

It is possible that the story was leaked because there are isolationist tendencies in the United States that advocate the removal of troops from Europe. The American Government would be highly alarmed at any such suggestion and may, therefore, welcome a firm denial from Washington to set the record straight.

Israeli soldier goes berserk

Tel Aviv. — An army recruit went berserk in training camp in southern Israel and shot 10 soldiers before turning his weapon on himself. One of his victims died. His condition is grave.

Army sources said the soldier was a conscript who had just completed a seven-day prison sentence for a breach of discipline.

Debray to examine plight of refugees

Islamabad. — M. Regis Debray, the French presidential adviser for foreign relations, will travel to Pakistan next Monday for a three-day fact-finding mission on the situation of Afghan refugees there, reliable sources here said. M. Debray spent three years in jail in Bolivia after supporting the guerrillas led by Che Guevara.

172 Kurds go on trial in Turkey

Ankara. — A total of 172 left-wing Kurdish Labour Party members went on trial at Erzurum, eastern Turkey, accused of trying to establish an independent Kurdish state.

The prosecution is demanding the death penalty for 34 of the defendants and sentences of between six months and 20 years for the rest.

Commander shot

San Sebastian. — Unidentified gunmen shot and wounded a naval commander in the Basque town of Zarzuz as he drove by in a jeep.

Tin magnate dies

New York. — Senator Antonio Padino, the Bolivian tin magnate, has died in New York aged 85.

South Africans to streamline anti-terror laws

From Michael Hornsby Cape Town, Feb 3

Three draft Bills revising and streamlining, but not relaxing, South Africa's draconian security laws, together with a proposal for a new Ministry of Law and Order to administer them, were laid before Parliament here today.

The Bills are the outcome of 18 months' work by a six-man commission of inquiry into security legislation under the chairmanship of Mr Justice Rabie, a senior Transvaal judge. The inquiry was requested by the Government.

Announcing the commission's proposals, Mr K. M. Coetsee, the Minister of Justice, said the Government was treating them as a very high priority and would make known its attitude to them later this session. They are to be debated in conjunction with the Strydom Commission report on the press.

The commission's main finding is that the toughness of the existing security laws is amply justified by the terrorism and sabotage committed in the republic during the past few years, and the likelihood that these activities would continue to increase in the foreseeable future.

Those responsible for these activities, the commission contends, are trying to overthrow the existing order by violence, are aided by communist countries and operate from territories bordering the republic — evidently a reference to the banned African National Congress.

The commission does, however, allow that the wideness and stringency of the security laws have had some inequitable effects, and that use of provisions for the detention of people without trial and the banning of organisations and publications need to be more strictly monitored.

Among the changes recommended are that those detained should be visited in private not less than once a fortnight by a magistrate and a district surgeon, and may

not be held for more than 30 days without ministerial approval after a written application from the Commissioner of Police.

The draft legislation also provides for the appointment of Inspectors of Detainees who would visit prisoners and submit written reports to the Minister and also furnish any evidence of maltreatment.

If a prisoner had not been released after six months, the police would be required to adduce reasons before a board of review, which would also be empowered to take written and oral evidence from the prisoner. A report would then be submitted to the minister.

These proposals are evidently designed to quiet one of the domestic and foreign criticism of the treatment of those detained who are frequently held incommunicado and without access to lawyers or relations. Prisoners have also died from supposed accidents ranging from falling out of windows to slipping on bars of soap.

The new draft Bills would regroup all the existing security laws, of which there are more than 30, into three pieces of legislation: an Internal Security Act (dealing with offences of terrorism, sabotage and communism); a Protection of Certain Information Bill (replacing the existing Official Secrets Act); and a Bill to combat a new offence of intimidation.

Mr Louis Le Grange, the Minister of Police, told Parliament today there would be a very important sabotage trial later this year. Care was being taken, he added, to see that they did not injure themselves or commit suicide in the meantime.

According to Mr Le Grange, there are 133 people detained under the security laws excluding people held under provisions allowing for detention for interrogation for up to 14 days.

Carrington flies into Asean disarray

From David Watts Bangkok, Feb 3

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, flew into Thailand tonight against a background of disarray in the Cambodia policy of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean).

Members were publicly at odds over what to do next in the political and military struggle to force the Vietnamese into leaving Cambodia after a remark yesterday by Datuk Sri Mahathir Mohamed, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, which appeared to undermine Asean strategy.

Fundamental to this has been maintenance of the Khmer Rouge seat at the United Nations. Asean leaders have always maintained that it was essential to keep the seat in the hands of the Khmer Rouge to prevent it going by default.

But yesterday Dr Mahathir hinted to Asean parliamentarians in Kuala Lumpur that Malaysia might reconsider its support of the Khmer Rouge because of its refusal to join the loose coalition of Cambodian opposition groups proposed by Singapore last year. On the face of it such a move would play into the hands of the Vietnamese by weakening a key element of Asean strategy.

The day after Dr Mahathir's remarks General Carlos Romulo, the Foreign Minister of the Philippines, expressed himself "speechless", and Air Chief Marshal Siddhi Savetsila, the Thai Foreign Minister, called on the Chinese to organize talks between the potential Khmer coalition partners in Peking.

Press freedom 'El Pais in takeover battle'

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, Feb. 3

The editor of one of Spain's leading newspapers which has closely tied its fortunes to the survival of the country's new democracy, will visit London tomorrow.

*El Pais*, now in its sixth year since first appearing within six months of General Franco's death, has become remarkably influential as well as successful. But there is a shadow over its future as a group of right-wing shareholders prepare a takeover bid for this summer. Their target is the editorial independence of the paper's founder, Juan Luis Cebrían and his staff.

On the night of the military coup attempt last February 23, while 350 Spanish MPs and the full Cabinet were still held at gunpoint in the Cortes, *El Pais* got a special edition on to the streets with banner headlines punning on its name: "The country stands by the constitution — viva la constitución."

Rightists, small in number but close to the levers of power and with behind the scenes political influence, have not forgiven the newspaper for that rallying cry to the forces of democracy.

Senior Cebrían told *The Times* that the secret of his paper's editorial independence has hitherto been the diffusion of its shareholders — 1,200 people ranging from provincial university professors to several of the leading political figures of the transition.

Conservative circles are particularly critical of the editorial page and its so-called Free Tribune which, Senior Cebrían explained, upholds the newspaper's principle of genuine independence by inviting people with

left-of-centre views to contribute.

A senior newspaper executive in Madrid commented: "After they got rid of Senior Cebrían, the right-wingers' one big foe is *El Pais*."

This year is a crucial one for Spain with the trial of senior army officers accused of involvement in the coup attempt and a keenly contested general election in sight.

Senior Cebrían denies, however, a right-wing claim to control 30 per cent of the shares already, maintaining that according to his calculations they must be less than 20 per cent.

The real power, he says, lies in the hands of the 21-member board of directors who control 40 per cent of the shares. "But there is no very defined proprietor, no one proprietor for me to telephone, and this gives the people who make the newspaper a power which otherwise we would not have."

In the complicated period facing us perhaps that is what makes the people who have real power, the establishment, seek to control us."

Madrid's journalistic community has been hearing rumours that the Government is not unhappy with the takeover going forward. The other day, a close aide of Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, the Prime Minister, indicated that the Government was "deeply concerned" over the threat to *El Pais*.

On the allegation that the paper takes a line too much in favour of the Socialists, Senior Cebrían said: "If we can criticize a Centre Democrat Government perhaps it will be easier for us to criticize, as we certainly will, the Socialists if they win power."

Señor Cebrían: Fortunes tied to Spanish democracy

General Franco's death, collected together shareholders and a team of young journalists whose average age is still below 30.

Conservative circles are particularly critical of the editorial page and its so-called Free Tribune which, Senior Cebrían explained, upholds the newspaper's principle of genuine independence by inviting people with



President and Mrs Reagan greeting President and Mrs Mubarak at the White House yesterday.

Mubarak pledges peace to Reagan

Washington, Feb 3. — President Reagan welcomed President Mubarak of Egypt to the White House today with pledges to continue Middle East peace efforts and oppose Soviet moves in the area. It was the Egyptian leader's first meeting with Mr Reagan since he came to power last October.

Mr Reagan said the two leaders shared a mutual concern at the expansion of a totalitarian power which oppressed the peoples of Poland and Afghanistan.

"Within the Middle East this same power encourages hatred and conflict, hoping to take advantage of instability," Mr Reagan said. "The United States stands firmly with Egypt and other Middle East nations concerned with Middle East security."

By contrast, Mr Mubarak said the key to peace in the Middle East lay in settling the question of autonomy for Palestinians living in Israeli-occupied territories.

The two leaders stood side-by-side while the Marine band played the national anthem of both countries. Heavy rain forced the ceremony indoors, where Mr Reagan greeted Mr Mubarak warmly. The President said: "Your visit reaffirms our friendship and all Americans thank you for that reaffirmation."

Security around the White House was tight with large numbers of both Egyptian and American security personnel on duty.

Turmoil in El Salvador

Army joins in the propaganda war

From Our Correspondent, San Salvador, Feb 3

Stung by accusations of wholesale slaughter of civilians by its troops, the El Salvador military command has launched a propaganda campaign attributing similar atrocities to its guerrilla opponents.

Leading newspapers in San Salvador today carried lurid accounts of a massacre allegedly committed by guerrillas of the Farabundo Martí Liberation Front at the small town of Nueva Trinidad, some 55 miles north-west of San Salvador, in the conflict-torn province of Chalatenango.

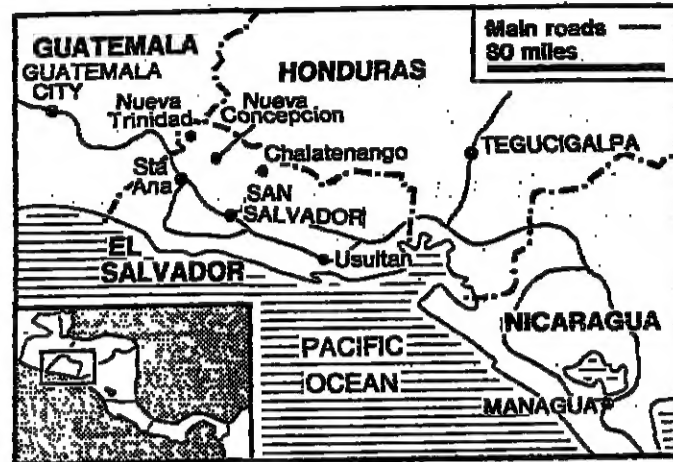
The reports, which variously gave the total civilian death toll as 150 or 400, were attributed to military sources, who were said to have hinted that the guerrillas included "white who spoke with foreign accents".

However, the absence of significant numbers of bodies of the scene at Nueva Trinidad has cast doubt on the version of events provided by the Salvadorean high command.

A number of local photographers and cameramen were flown to the scene of the alleged guerrilla massacre. One of them, Señor Carlos Santamaría, a freelance cameraman employed by ABC TV of the United States, said that 16 bodies were on display.

However, 10 of these were members of the local civilian militia, five were guerrillas and one allegedly a guerrilla leader. Señor Santamaría said that the local commander showed him a grave which allegedly contained 350 corpses. But he said that, judging from its size, it could not have contained more than 10 bodies.

The efforts by the Salvadorean army to tarnish their opponents' image came after the killing of 19 civilians in the course of an army operation on the outskirts of San Salvador early



last Sunday. There have also been allegations that more than 700 villagers were slaughtered during an operation last December in northern Morazan province, near the frontier with Honduras.

Reports of continuing excesses by Salvadorean forces against the civilian population have provoked angry attacks in the United States Congress against the policies of President Reagan's Administration, which is seeking a huge increase in military and economic aid to El Salvador this year.

The latest spate of guerrilla attacks appeared to have died down in the past 24 hours, after the withdrawal of an insurgent force which had fought its way into the provincial capital of Usulután, 60 miles south-east of San Salvador.

The guerrilla broadcasting station, Radio Venceremos, has, however, warned the civilian population to be prepared for increasing military activity.

Reagan's salvage, page 12

Right-wing crusader stamps the country

From Paul Ellman Nueva Concepción, El Salvador, Feb 3

It is fiesta time in Nueva Concepción, but the political leader the United States would least like to see do well in El Salvador's elections next month has little cheer to offer his audience of straw-battered farmers.

"The choice before us is to bow our heads like slaves, to fight, or to leave our homeland," thundered Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, the Máximo Líder of El Salvador's extreme right.

The major has come to this farming centre, 40 miles north-west of San Salvador, to seek recruits for the crusade which United States officials fear could see his party, the Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena), capture a significant share of the seats in the voting on March 28 for a Constitutional Assembly.

A strutting 39-year-old, the major's words cut across the tinkle of merriment coming from a fair set up in the main square of Nueva Concepción, a town of unpaved roads where pigs and ox-carts splash through foul-smelling puddles.

Despite the increasingly effective campaign by left-wing guerrillas of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Movement, the major's harshest words are reserved for Christian Democratic politicians who share office with the military in the ruling junta headed by President José Napoleón Duarte.

"Christian Democracy is the same as communism," Major D'Aubuisson declares. He notes that the Christian Democratic colour is green



Major D'Aubuisson: Getting his message across.

and draws chuckles when he quips: "They're like water-melons — green on the outside but red in the middle."

Although Arena was formed only last October, it is considered one of the three parties, out of the seven contesting the elections, which stands a chance of emerging with significant support.

Part of its strength is attributed to Major D'Aubuisson himself, the only politician to have taken his campaign to rural areas where voters live.

Surrounded by guards armed with assault rifles, sawn-off shotguns and grenades, the major travels in an armoured-plated vehicle, enhancing his image of *machismo* by allowing his travel plans to be known in advance as an invitation to the guerrillas, who have threatened to eliminate him, to attack his entourage.

His campaign is backed by big landowners, members of El Salvador's middle class and, most significantly, by the military.

A former member of the National Guard, the paramilitary force modelled on Spain's Civil Guard, which has been held responsible for widespread excesses against Salvadorean civilians, Major D'Aubuisson has, in the past, enjoyed the protection of General José Guillermo García, the junta's Minister of Defence.

Although Major D'Aubuisson professes to believe in democracy, he has been accused twice in the past two years of plotting to overthrow the Government because of its commitment to political and social reforms.

Thanks to his links with the military, he is believed to have attracted the backing of the "death squads", the armed groups responsible for conducting a reign of terror in country areas where civilians suspected of sympathizing with the guerrillas are murdered regularly as a warning to others.

Officials at the United States Embassy in San Salvador make no effort to hide their disquiet that the major may attract sufficient support to be able to demand the removal of President Duarte from the junta after the March 28 vote.

The major has vowed that he will not allow the election result to be a "communist constitution" for El Salvador. Apart from that, his policies are summed up under such vague slogans as "peace, progress and liberty".

However, a member of his entourage in Nueva Concepción shed some light on the frantic fears that lie behind the major's campaign.

"If this country doesn't go communist, it will be a miracle," said Mr Arnold Canton, a businessman who devotes all his free time to campaigning for Arena. "The guerrillas are almost in power and what does the State Department want? Human rights. What rubbish."

Paris: The decision of Claude Cheysson, the Foreign Minister, to visit Mr Józef Glemp, the Polish Foreign Minister, at the Quai d'Orsay this afternoon illustrates the difficulties the Socialist Government faces in its attempts to "moralise" French political life (Charles Hargrove writes).

M. Cheysson has laid himself open to sharp criticism not only from the Opposition but also from some left-wing quarters. The fact that his meeting with the representative of the Polish military regime took place in a rather shabby corner of the corner fashion — the presence of photographers, apparently, was regarded as "unnecessary" — only makes matters worse.

Poles admit unrest but deny strikes

From Roger Boyes Warsaw, Feb 3

The Polish Government today admitted that militia and riot police used water hoses and tear gas to disperse 3,000 demonstrators in Gdansk last weekend.

Mr Jerzy Urban, the Government spokesman, revealed the details of the demonstration at a news conference during which he denied that there was widespread unrest in the country as a result of food price increases.

Mr Urban's estimate of the number of demonstrators involved in the Gdansk protest exceeded even unofficial estimates. He emphasised, however, that nobody was killed and he stood by the first official reports that 14 people had been injured. The militia acted, according to Mr Urban, when the demonstrators tried to persuade workers to lay wreaths at the foot of a cross commemorating the shooting of protesting workers in 1970.

However, the spokesman denied that there had been strikes throughout the country. At the Ursus tractor factory in Warsaw there had been particularly heated "discussions" over the price rises and the need for compensation, he said; but did not elaborate. In Wrocław, there was "a type of a youth demonstration in one of the dormitories of the polytechnic", the students had sung and shouted anti-state slogans.

Unofficial reports maintained that Ursus was shut down briefly for "repairs" and that there were go-slows in several factories in Wrocław and Łódź.

Mr Urban did not volunteer any information about the unrest and all of his facts were disclosed reluctantly in response to questions. The news conference was technically dedicated to a report on the state of Polish agriculture.

The situation appears to be calm in the capital and the authorities have been confident enough about the mood in Gdansk to organize a trip to the port for foreign correspondents yesterday. However, the return of the students still presents a problem. Talks were scheduled in the Ministry for Higher Education today about whether to start the undergraduate term as planned tomorrow.

According to a student leader, the return of the students may trigger the beginning of term with political science and journalism students starting only on February 13 to give additional time to the political vetting of lecturers, and reduce the possibility of staff-student unrest.

Mr Urban concluded that there was some disagreement about the food price rises. But "the majority of the community — and it is a growing majority — understands the need for price increases. Unlike 1970, or December 1970, there are no protests or riots — nothing spectacular," he claims.

Meanwhile, Archbishop Józef Glemp, the Polish Primate, is due to travel to Rome tomorrow for talks with the Pope. The talks are intended to deal with the Pope's planned visit to Poland in August and the now inseparable issues of martial law and internment.

The Primate hoped to visit an internment centre outside Warsaw today in order to be able to present an up-to-date account of the internment situation to the Pope. However, after journalists covered the planned trip, the episcopate appears to have decided that it would be better for the Primate to rest.

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More than 100 testify in Atlanta murder trial

From Our Own Correspondent, New York, February 3

The prosecution case against Mr Wayne Williams, charged with killing two of the string of missing and murdered young blacks in Atlanta, is expected to be completed this week.

More than 100 witnesses have testified since the trial opened on December 28, and many have described seeing Mr Williams with at least five of the 26 victims.

Judge Clarence Cooper has allowed the prosecution to introduce evidence relating to 10 other deaths in an attempt to show a pattern of activity involving Mr Williams and several of the victims.

Mr Williams who is 23 and describes himself as a music promoter and freelance photographer, affirms that he knew none of the victims. But some witnesses said he attended three of the funerals.

The prosecution has attempted to prove that Mr Williams practised homosexuality. A youth of 16 today claimed that he had been offered \$20 (just over £10) for a sexual act.

Three serologists from the Georgia crime laboratory testified earlier this week that bloodstains found in Mr Williams's car matched the blood types of two of the victims.

Stiff sentences in US slave case

From Christopher Thomas, New York, Feb 3

Three men were sent to jail today one for life, for kidnapping and holding workers in involuntary servitude on a farm in North Carolina.

Although it is an extreme example, the case has highlighted the exploitation of migrant workers in the United States. The evidence suggests that tens of thousands of illegal immigrants are being employed for token wages.

Judge Earl Britt said in sentencing the men in the District court at New Bern, North Carolina, that he was imposing stiff penalties as a warning to others. John Harris, aged 39, was jailed for life for what the judge called "strong arm kidnapping". His criminal record included possession of explosives, manslaughter and a pending case of alleged murder.

Dennis Warren, aged 19, and his brother Richard, aged 22, were convicted of recruiting migrant workers from cities along the eastern seaboard and holding them against their will last summer at a farm in Nash County, North Carolina.

One of the men in their employ died in the fields after being compelled to work despite complaints that he was ill. Mr Warren was sentenced to 20 years for his conspiracy in the death; his brother was cleared of conspiracy and sentenced to six months' imprisonment for

helped by five years' probation on slavery charges.

In a less spectacular example of exploitation of migrant workers, dozens of Indonesians have just been discovered working in Beverly Hills and Los Angeles as servants for wealthy families. The indications are that a highly efficient smuggling operation is under way to get the Indonesians into the country without papers.

A man believed to be linked with the smuggling operations was today arrested in Jakarta. He is likely to be charged with recruiting Indonesians to work as indentured servants. Embassy officials in the capital



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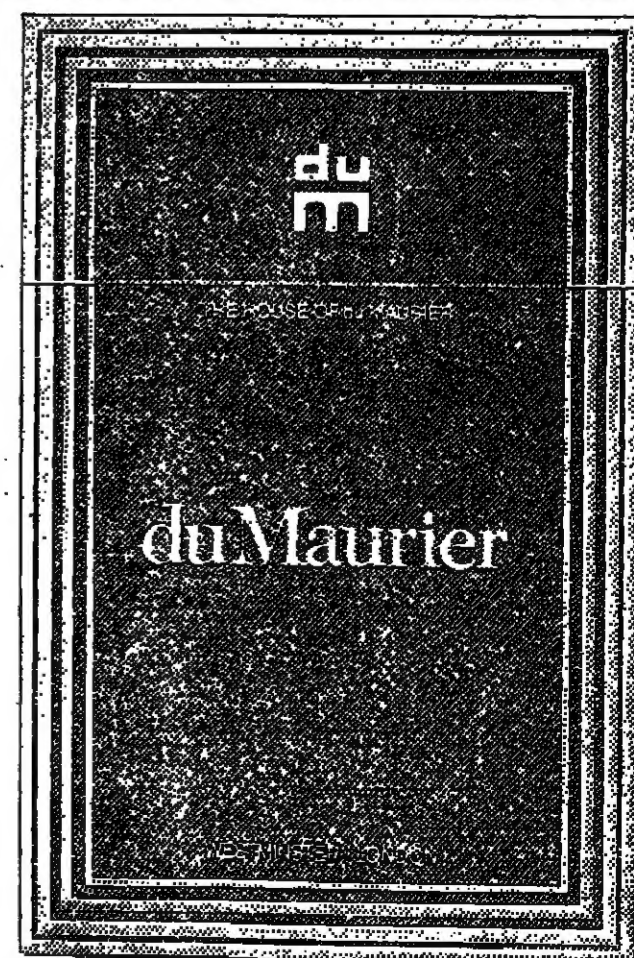
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THINK ABOUT THE HEALTH RISKS BEFORE SMOKING.



## Brezhnev takes US to task for slow arms talks

Moscow, Feb 3. — President Brezhnev today accused the United States of dragging its feet at nuclear missile talks in Geneva and called for agreement on a two-thirds reduction in medium-range nuclear weapons by 1990.

The Soviet leader who was talking to representatives of Socialist International, also firmly rejected President Reagan's notion of "linkage" in Soviet-American relations, Tass said.

Moscow viewed patient and constructive talks aimed at real reductions in East-West arms levels as the only way to solve world tensions, Mr Brezhnev said.

He suggested that the United States had displayed a different attitude at the Geneva talks.

"The initial stage of these talks gives rise to a certain wariness because of the obvious reluctance of the American side to look for a basis of a mutually acceptable agreement", he said.

The Geneva negotiations, which started in November, aim at limiting deployment of medium-range missiles in Europe. The United States is calling on Moscow to remove its triple-warhead SS20 missiles and plans to delay nearly 600 cruise and Pershing2 missiles of its own from next year if no agreement is reached.

Both sides agreed to strict secrecy at the start of the negotiations. Mr Brezhnev's remarks today, indicating Soviet impatience with their progress, was the first substantial comment on them from either Washington or Moscow.

The Soviet President renewed earlier calls for a moratorium on further missile deployment and for an agreement reducing missile stocks by hundreds of units. But for the first time he outlined in public a possible timetable for these cuts.

"It would be possible, for instance, to cut by 1990 the present amount of medium-range nuclear armaments by each side to one-third or even less", he said.

The President said "the two sides could agree to a

stage-by-stage reduction that would mean cutting the arsenals of both in the next few years by approximately a third and then going further ahead".

Western diplomats said the proposal of a two-thirds cut had already been made in private by Soviet officials in talks with United States officials. They said Mr Brezhnev's comments did not contain any substantially new proposals because he based his calls for sharp reductions in arms on the premise that there was a balance of power between East and West.

The Soviet Union says that both sides have about 1,000 medium-range nuclear missile carriers. It includes British and French missiles and United States forward-based systems in its calculations. The American side rejects this argument and says a build-up of more than 150 SS20 missiles in the past few years has given Moscow an advantage and left the West dangerously exposed.

Mr Brezhnev rejected outright Mr Reagan's demands that arms questions be linked with Moscow's behaviour generally in foreign affairs and that the Kremlin agree to show restraint in its dealings with Third World states.

"Diplomacy requires de-mouements and not linkages", he was quoted as saying. "The tangled knot of conflict situations and disputed problems in the world cannot be cut by any sword. The only way is the way of patient constructive talks, talks ensuring a real reduction and destruction of arms".

The remarks came at a meeting with leaders of the Socialist International's council on disarmament at the Kremlin. The group included Mr Kalevi Sorsa, chairman of Finland's Social Democratic Party, and Mr Walter Haefliger, a senior official in the Austrian Socialist Party.

Socialist International, which comprises more than 50 socialist and social democratic parties, has been trying to find ways of facilitating East-West agreements on arms cuts.



## Marchais stays in driving seat

M Georges Marchais, the General Secretary of the French Communist Party, addressing the opening session of the party's congress in Paris yesterday. Judging by the loudness of the applause that greeted him, his position is still unchallenged (Charles Hargrove writes from Paris). The general line of the five-day congress is more one of continuity than of change, despite the unprecedented democratic debate in party cells and branches throughout the country which has preceded it in the past three months.

M Marchais insisted that the responsibility for the party's setback at the polls last summer when it lost a quarter of its voters, was "collective". Nor could it be pinned on "the leaders and the

militants who have preceded us". It was, he stressed, a consequence of the fact that the French Communist Party "remains the prisoner of a socialist model unadapted to our country and our age". By concluding the common programme with the Socialists in 1972 the party had also "placed itself in a position of weakness" towards both them and the right.

The party was still committed, he added, to "Socialism à la Française" in line with the conclusions of its twenty-second and twenty-third congresses. That means there will be no break with the past, and the party will continue to advocate a policy based on social justice and economic growth, with private ownership and small enterprises functioning

alongside an enlarged public sector.

He went on to emphasize the importance of democratic change in such a socialist society, and of individual and collective freedoms "to which Communists are inextricably attached". He also recalled his party's "condemnation without appeal of Stalinism".

M Marchais gave the Government good marks for "moving in the right direction", though serious problems remained. Criticism of its actions will be left to other speakers.

There was no question of France surrendering its nuclear forces unilaterally, he emphasized. As a member of the Atlantic alliance, France should carry out its commitments.

## Von Bulow 'confessed to affair'

Newport, Rhode Island, Feb. 3. — Claus von Bulow once confessed he was having an affair with another woman, his stepson testified today at Mr von Bulow's trial on charges of trying to murder his wife.

The confession came in the library of Mr von Bulow's Manhattan flat in January, 1981, about a month after his wife had been taken to hospital in a coma, according to Prince Alexander, von Auerberg, aged 22, a Brown University student.

"My sister asked my stepfather about rumours she had heard about him having affairs with other women," Prince von Auerberg said. "My stepfather said that after my younger sister was born my mother was unable to have sex and he looked towards other women."

Asked by Mr Stephen Famiglietti, the prosecutor, whether a name was mentioned, the Prince replied: "Yes, Alexandra Isles."

According to court documents, Mr von Bulow and Miss Isles, a New York socialite and actress, went on holiday together in the Bahamas within two months after Mrs Marina "Sunny" von Bulow fell into what doctors have called an irreversible coma on December 21, 1980.

Mr von Bulow faces two counts of assault with intent to murder his wife with injections of insulin during Christmas visits to her mansion in 1979 and 1980.

The court began hearing evidence yesterday after prosecution accusations that the Danish-born financier was a fortune hunter with an eye on his wife's estate.

Yesterday, Prince von Auerberg recalled a conversation with his mother during the Thanksgiving weekend of 1980, a month before she became ill, in which she said she considered divorcing Mr von Bulow.

"My mother said she wanted a divorce", he said. "I asked her why, and she said it was something so horrible she didn't want to tell me. I asked her again and she said it was too horrible to say."

Prince von Auerberg was expected to continue on the witness stand today for more questioning by the prosecution and the first cross-examination by Mr Herald Frainger, for the defence. — AP

## £5m art robbery

Barcelona. — Police here are holding a Belgian accused of stealing art works worth about £5m from Spanish churches and monasteries. Most of the stolen objects were recovered.

## Zimbabwe law chief told to quit

From Stephen Taylor, Salisbury, Feb 3

The Attorney General of Zimbabwe has been asked to resign his post to make way for a black man, Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, confirmed today.

Asked at a press conference why Mr Brendan Treacy, who is 57, was being replaced, Mr Mugabe said it was part of a programme of Africanizing crucial posts.

Mr Treacy has been Attorney General since 1975 and was responsible for the decision in 1980 to prosecute Mr Edgar Tekere, former Minister of Manpower and secretary-general of the ruling Zanu (PF) party, on a charge of murdering a white farmer.

Last month, Mr Treacy announced that he was bringing charges against two senior members of the national army — a lieutenant-general and a brigadier — over incidents involving a team of white bowlers who claimed that they were harassed and detained after a match at a military barracks in Salisbury.

Mr Mugabe said that the government had been pursuing a policy of African advancement, but had generally waited for posts to fall vacant through resignation before installing blacks in them.

At the same time, "structural appointments" were

being made in the Ministry of Justice and it had been decided to replace Mr Treacy.

Mr Treacy declined to discuss the matter other than to confirm that he had been asked to resign.

Should he decline it could cause the Government considerable embarrassment. The post is entrenched by the constitution and he can be removed only for professional misconduct or incompetence agreed by a judicial tribunal.

Mr Treacy, later told Reuters that he would be leaving the country. He said: "I have been asked to leave. No reason was given."

## The Great British pay-out

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Feb 3

Hopes of agreeing broad guidelines for Britain's budgetary contribution to the EEC have virtually been abandoned. Initial soundings by the European Commission and the Belgian Presidency about a solution to the problem have shown that only by discussing real figures is there any chance of success.

Throughout the negotiations on the issue so far Britain has been insisting that the proper procedure is to agree on the principles by which budget contributions should be calculated and that, after this has been done, the details of financial mechanisms can be worked out.

France, however, has increasingly taken the line that it is impossible to negotiate in the abstract and that there has to be a real knowledge of how much the deal will cost each country before agreement can be possible.

Mr Leo Tindemans, the Belgian Foreign Minister and current President of the Council of Ministers, said this week that he had to "try something new to arrive at a meaningful dialogue." So he has given up the idea of finding guidelines and in his discreet contacts with other EEC governments he is seeking to quantify in hard cash the amount of money each country is prepared to pay towards a budget rebate for Britain.

Britain's only real ally in looking for a "guideline" solution is West Germany and it is no coincidence that these are the only two countries which by any scenario would be net payers into the community. At the same time the resigned British acceptance that it will have to play the numbers game is evident from the release of Whitehall calculations this week of the extent of British payments if there is no budget deal.

According to these figures Britain would have to pay in £1,140m more than received and West Germany £1,040m. All the others would be net beneficiaries. Italy would receive £539m, Ireland £393m, Greece £337m, Belgium £269m, Denmark £202m, Luxembourg £178m, Holland £176m and France £59m.

There are no official figures for this and each country has been doing its own calculations along less than objective lines. Nevertheless the British figures are probably in line with what would be the eventual totals and they show that, significantly, it would not take a very large adjustment in payments to turn France from being a net beneficiary into a net contributor.

## Jeering fails to disturb Mauroy's optimism

From Charles Hargrove, Evreux, Feb 3

M Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, chose upper Normandy and this small town, hard hit by recession for the last lap of his "Tour de France for employment", as he calls it, which began in October. It opened in the euphoria of the "pink wave" which carried the Socialists to power; it ended in a more sober mood amid growing discontent, and demonstrations against his Government.

In Rouen, earlier yesterday, 5,000 shopkeepers and artisans. Kept by riot police on the far bank of the Seine from the prefecture where M Mauroy was speaking, shouted unflattering but rhymed slogans, as they walked in the city of Cornille.

The farmers, who had also prepared a warm welcome for

him, were persuaded to go away, the more so as they intended to hold their fire for Mme Edith Cresson, the Minister of Agriculture, who was in Caen yesterday, whom they planned to kidnap for three days to make her milk cows and show her what it was like.

"They should welcome her with flowers instead," M Mauroy declared in Rouen, "for she is battling for them in Brussels against the British, the Germans and the Dutch."

None of this seems to undermine the Prime Minister's optimism, his fondness for personal contacts with everyone, supporters and opponents alike.

"We live in a country where dialogue and consultation remain too rare", he said in Evreux.

## Arrigo Levi: A Personal View

## Italian Communists find their feet

The bitter open quarrel and the lengthy recriminations which are being exchanged between the Italian and Soviet Communist Parties (Unita's first answer to Pravda's attack will be soon followed by others), raise the question of what will be the political strategy, and influence, of the PCI — the biggest Communist Party outside the Soviet Block — both in Italy and in the wider world, now that it is free from its Soviet ties.

In Italy, Signor Enrico Berlinguer's party is already "back in business" as a moving element of Italy's fragmented political scene. It has started a strong "disturbing action" against Comrade Bettino Craxi's Socialist Party by insisting that a new "alternative of the left" has now become possible: this hinders Signor Craxi's strategy, aiming at taking the leadership of a centre-left block excluding the communists.

Signor Berlinguer could do nothing different right now: he could not go back to a "historical compromise" with the Christian Democrats just when he is leading the party in a bitter fight with the Soviet Union, which disturbs a large number of his more traditional supporters. For the time being he is bound to try to translate his elusive formula of the "third way" into a more acceptable "alternative of the left".

But these are just his initial moves. The future rules of the political game in Italy are still to be written. We witness the beginning of a "triangular system", where each of the three main blocks (the Christian Democrats, the Communists, the Socialists — "Liberal" Alliance) will play with a number of possible combinations and formulas.

The socialists being the central party in this system, they should have the widest choice. For the moment they will insist on their strategy of a centre-left coalition, hoping that they can convince their partners to accept Signor Craxi as a new Premier until the next elections.

But if their ambitions were to suffer a severe repulse by the Christian Democrats they might threaten to choose an "alternative of the left" strategy. The fact that they have more than one choice may strengthen towards the Christian Democrats.

But the DC has already shown in the past its

tactical mobility, and it might again prefer to have a "grand coalition", including the Communists, rather than submit to the Socialist blackmail. Communist ministers should be less objectionable today, both inside and outside Italy, than they were in the past.

Anyway, a triangular situation (Britain might come to face it in the near future) only exists if a number of potential combinations. This will not increase Italy's government stability, which is bad. But the inevitable changes in the strategies and images of all political parties could reduce the large existing psychological gap between public opinion and the politicians, and this would be good for Italian democracy.

Outside Italy, what is going to happen? Two points must be borne in mind. The first one is that the PCI will continue acting as a Communist Party. This is its only chance if it wants to have real influence in those areas — Western Communism, the non-aligned countries, the world left — which it has chosen as its operating ground. The second point is that the PCI will have an active "foreign policy". Its "internationalist" vocation is a genuine one.

Of course the PCI will not be able to create serious problems for Soviet power inside the Soviet block, at a time of severe repression. But it will go on embodying a dangerous ideological political opinion as long as it continues being a Communist Party, which is what it wants to be. The Kremlin leaders may reach the conclusion that a proper excommunication of the PCI is advisable in order to reduce its negative influence. But Moscow's communications today carry a doubtful weight.

Outside Moscow's reach, behind the protective shield of the Atlantic alliance, Signor Berlinguer's unusual Communist Party will in any case continue creating difficulties for Soviet aims in the wider world. But it will not be an obstacle in the Western community, and it will also hinder Atlantic strategy in many areas.

From now on, the PCI will do both things more vigorously than ever before.

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## ALGIERS GAS SECURED BY FRANCE

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris, Feb. 3

An agreement was signed in Algiers today on increased deliveries of Algerian gas to France. M Claude Cheysson, the Foreign Minister, said it was "not a mere commercial contract, but a fundamental agreement on co-development".

M Pierre Berégovoy, the Secretary-General of the Elysée Palace, said: "It demonstrates the determination of Paris to contribute to the valorization of the natural resources of developing countries in accordance with the South dialogue".

The agreement was preceded by two years of difficult negotiations.

In the end, the French Government has agreed to pay a "political" price for the gas, although this is not admitted officially. Nor has the price been disclosed. But it is reliably believed to be about \$5.20 (£2.73) a million British Thermal Units compared with the current price paid by the French gas board of \$3.70 and it is about 20 per cent more than the price agreed in the Siberian gas contract signed last month.

are themselves ideologically circumscribed: they cannot ask open-ended questions that could produce results incompatible with communist teaching.

But, he said, the distillation of public opinion was essential if the party were to rekindle enthusiasm and initiative and motivate people to work harder — tasks Mr Brezhnev said were urgent at last year's party congress.

Sociological surveys have produced striking results in individual instances; on the other hand, the surveys are often ignored.

The main aim of Soviet sociology, on which great hopes are now officially placed, is the nurturing of public opinion. As Soviet society becomes more complex and people better educated the authorities have found it no longer possible simply to issue orders, which can run into a wall of passive resistance. People have to be convinced of the reasons and justification for these orders. And centres such as the one in Tbilisi must provide the evidence.

## NEWS IN SUMMARY

## Modernize army, China told

Peking. — General Yang Deshi, Chief of Staff of China's four-million-strong armed forces, said they could not engage an enemy in modern warfare unless organization and discipline were improved. According to China Daily, an official newspaper, he declared: "We are faced with a highly modernized and well trained, powerful enemy. To deal with such an enemy we need not only high morale but also expertise in using modern weapons."

"If we fail to upgrade the organization and discipline of the armed forces," he said, "We would not be able to engage an enemy in modern warfare and might have to pay a higher price in the event of an emergency."

The report did not identify the enemy, but China regularly remarks on the presence of a million Soviet troops along its borders and accuses Moscow of seeking to subjugate China.

## Egyptian border stays closed

Cairo. — Egypt has said that the border with Libya will remain closed, despite recent signs that both countries were easing restrictions.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry had said the border, closed for the past three years, was being opened for authorized groups of Egyptians working in Libya to return home for holidays. But a Cabinet spokesman later said the border was only opened briefly to allow 27 teachers and their families to cross because of their special circumstances.

## Gambians given death sentence

Banjul. — Six Gambians have been sentenced to death for their part in an attempted coup last July. The judge took 10 hours and 25 minutes to read a 400-page judgment condemning the men variously for murder, treason, felony, waging war and planning to depose and kill President Sir Dawda Jawara.

Seven people were sentenced to death in December for their part in the failed Marxist takeover. Two others have been acquitted.

## Kosovo jailings

Belgrade. — More than 280 people have been jailed for their part in violent Albanian nationalist riots in which at least nine people were killed in the southern Yugoslav province of Kosovo last spring. Mr Mehmet Malici, the Provincial Interior Minister, said.

## Force-feeding threatened

Miss Lida Vashchenko, who ended a month-long hunger strike after being taken to hospital at the weekend. She has claimed that she cut short her protest after being threatened with force-feeding.

In a letter to her family living in the American Embassy in Moscow, Miss Vashchenko, aged 30, quoted a Soviet doctor at the Botkin Hospital, Moscow as telling her on Sunday evening: "If you don't eat, we will feed you with a tube down your throat. We don't want to, but we will."

Miss Vashchenko wrote that she had suffered a high fever and became delirious for a short time on Sunday. "Now," her letter went on, "my health is getting better because I am eating. I think soon I will be before the KGB. It will be in their hands when I can stand firmly on my two feet."

Dr John Schadler, the doctor at the Embassy, and a consular officer visited Miss Vashchenko in the gastro-intestinal unit of the hospital for 30 minutes yesterday.



Pan Am

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NEW YORK PAI

13:30

16:05

# Experience tells you to take the one with most experience.

It's no coincidence that the most convenient daily flight from London Heathrow to New York carries our name.

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It's experience that counts every time. And that's where we stand head and shoulders above everyone in the airline business.

Because nobody's been in Business longer, and it shows.



**PAN AM**



## Thurber's-eye view of the world Jottings from a slim postbag

Selected Letters of  
James Thurber

Edited by Helen Thurber and  
Edward Weeks  
(Hamish Hamilton, £8.95)

James Thurber's widow and an old friend have put together 260-odd pages of letters, selected, as the jacket puts it, from a "mass of correspondence". If Thurber was, as is suggested, a voluminous correspondent, the selection must have been very rigorous. The letters of his friend E. B. White, happily still going strong, which were published a few years ago, weigh in at just under 700 pages. Those of Edmund Wilson on politics and literature alone fill more than 740. What is more the White and Wilson collections are closely printed, where the Thurber has great extravagant expanses of empty paper and, in themselves welcome, many of his drawings.

This is, in fact, pretty much a matter of fragmentary moments in James Thurber's postbag. Since he was a careful and gifted writer, although a slow and infatigable one, there is naturally enjoyment to be found. Some of that enjoyment is memorial, an awakening in the mind of past pleasures, above all of seeing such things as the Dr Millmoss-containing hippopotamus again. Some comes from turns of phrase. Such as "Yesterday was hot and muggy, like a fifteen year old Pekinese". Or, inspired by Laurence Olivier's different rendering of the line "she should have been hereafter", "The Thurber version of this line gives it an impatient note and I think that I am on sound ground here not only as a student of Macbeth but as a husband of many years' experience. My feeling is that Macbeth had plenty on his hands the way it was..."

These things are pleasant enough but do not call for any prominent position in one's cabinet of memories. The editors have ruled out any quasi-biographical service the book might have performed by what they euphemistically describe as their "departure from the iron grip of chronology". One is inclined to reply that one man's iron grip is another man's additional support. No very useful alternative value is realised.

by grouping together letters to particular correspondents. Few of the people Thurber wrote to get many letters here. Among the few who do, E. B. White and his wife have their letters divided into two chunks.

Good letters, letters worth reading by people unacquainted with writer or addressee, should have some substance, ideally news, however small, interspersed with character sketches. White is himself excellent at this. Thurber could have picked up some hints from White's to him of January 8, 1938, which covers a mass of personal ground that has some public interest and closes with a chilling account of the last years of Don Marquis, creator of archy, who had a stroke, lost his money, lost his second wife, had a couple of other strokes, and finally ended up in New Gardens or some damn place living with a sister.

The crucial difference is that White is interested in the world around him; Thurber is concerned only with himself, and the world enters in largely as an object of his interest in how he reacts to it and should represent it. There is very little to be learnt here about Thurber's life or his world. Dinner with Noel Coward is in the most



## Prisoner of the SLA: poor little rich girl

Every Secret Thing  
By Patricia  
Campbell Hearst

(Methuen, £8.95)

It is not, alas, given to all of us, by the time we reach our mid-thirties, to have grown up in one of the world's richest families, to have been kidnapped by revolutionaries, joined their cause, robbed banks at gunpoint, spent two years on the run, been caught, convicted and sentenced, then spent two years in jail before receiving a free pardon from the President of the United States.

Even fewer of us, I suspect, would subsequently have made a complete recovery, married our bodyguard, started a family, written a lucrative bestseller about it all, and lived happily ever after.

It is quite a tale Patty Hearst has to tell. With the help of one Alvin Moscow, she does so absorbingly. But the trouble with this hefty tome is that it is probably the only account we will ever have of all this, and it is hers. Writing in a rather narrowly professional way about such things as the arrangement of the chapters in a book he is writing or about the stings of *The New Yorker* under Ross to its contributors, there are any number of things to bite on. The picture his biographers so far have painted of Thurber is none too engaging. Here things have been much cleaned up. There is a little reference to drinking, nothing about the pursuit of women. There is one good political sentence on McCarthy: "I wait for the moment when he will make a slip of the tongue and call Eisenhower 'Hindenburg'."

The editors admit to some correction of the text in the interests of tidiness. A champagne misspelling has eluded them; Pol Roger makes one think in compensation of Roger's *Thesaurus* (a compendium of rude words, perhaps). One literary-historical point goes through. S. Eliot, delighted to let off "fancy food with sauce and wine" lunches most rationally off two martinis, scrambled eggs and bacon and then chocolate ice cream.

My sympathies, I must confess, lie rather with Miss Hearst. Let him or her content to undergo a similar ordeal cast the first stone. It is an extraordinary twist at the end of this latter-day parable that she received a

sterner jail sentence than any of her co-revolutionaries, who were not even tried for anything so severe as armed robbery (let alone kidnapping). The fact that she was coerced into taking part, whatever the objective evidence, if anything told against her.

Her chronicle, it is true, gets off to a bad start. In describing her life at the time she was abducted, and the slightly risqué life she was living at Berkeley University in the company of one Steven Weed, her prose style is reminiscent of another poor little rich girl, Gloria Vanderbilt: "Living together was a very 'in' thing to do in those days, rather like roller disco is today."

Once bound, gagged and blindfold in a revolutionary class, however, her values as much as her prose style (or Mr Moscow's) undergo a distinct improvement. The bulk of the book is a fascinating account of daily life in the company of a cache of homicidal maniacs, masquerading to themselves as much as anyone else as committed revolutionaries. That her father's famous food distribution programme ever took place in response to their demand seems the height of absurdity.

But they were in earnest. The way Patty paints her constant and only companions of those two years, they might have killed her on any of a hundred daily whims. Yet when presented with several chances to escape, leaving her to a ugly fate, she chose rather to aid their safe getaway. This is what the law, as much as this reader, found hard to swallow.

When should natural instincts of self-preservation bow to broader social responsibilities? Should a temporary democracy have written off the hapless Hearst before being offered a chance to absolve her guilt? The central moral dilemmas of this book remain quite unexplored—and unresolved—despite its power of persuasion that any one of us, in Patty Hearst's position, might have found ourselves robbing banks, blasting away at innocent bystanders and then dividing the spoils with the best of them.

Anthony Holden

## Scott Fitzgerald: record of the author as a professional

Some Sort of Epic  
Grandeur

The Life of F. Scott Fitzgerald  
By Matthew J.  
Brucoli

(Hodder & Stoughton, £14.95)

Not the sort of epic you might expect, old sport. The Drunken Novelist. The Auto-destruct Artist. The Jazz Age Flame. The Depression Dreamer. The Last Romantic. The Writer Who Ate His Wife. The Exile of Hollywood. The Great American Crack-Up. Icarus Vicarious. No, none of these, old familiar tales of Fitz and Hem and the Lost Boys. Professor Brucoli, a severe scholar from the University of South Carolina with lowering spectacles like those of Dr Eckelberg overlooking the ash-heaps of Long Island, has a different saga to relate. It is time, he tells us, at the outset of his massively researched new biography (the third in English), for "more facts" about a forgotten figure: Fitzgerald the professional author. And the facts are indeed fascinating.

Actually his title does not come, as you might suppose, from *The Great Gatsby* (1925) or even *Tender is the Night* (1934), but from one of Fitzgerald's superbly lucid letters to his daughter Scottie, looking back at his own life and craft two years before his death. It sets the tone for the whole investigation. Brucoli is a great writer, but sometimes I think the impersonal and objective quality of his talent and the sacrifices of it, in pieces, to preserve its essential value has some sort of epic grandeur. It is these "impersonal and objective" qualities, perhaps, that have made him seem far less significant for his inner development as a writer than the bitter gloom of the Thirties. Many critics have examined what destroyed the marriage with Zelda (notably Nancy Mitford, 1970), but Brucoli also shows what held it together, in imaginative terms, even after they were physically parted. He shows how Zelda provided his work with so many "premonitions", and how their "marathon talks"



Zelda and Scottie and Fitz

essays, articles, and self-interviews; numerous bad movie scripts (including some lines in *Gone With the Wind*), and five extraordinary novels of self-projection, of which perhaps three are modern classics — characteristically flawed or unfinished — yet unforgettable. In particular, Brucoli follows through, with brilliant effect, the planning and early composition stages of *Tender* and *The Last Tycoon* (posthumous, 1941), and shows Fitzgerald working doggedly, almost relentlessly, through the wreckage of his life with Zelda.

The overall impact of the book is to reverse many of one's preconceptions about Fitzgerald. The glitter of the Twenties, for example, comes to seem far less significant for his inner development as a writer than the bitter gloom of the Thirties. Many critics have examined what destroyed the marriage with Zelda (notably Nancy Mitford, 1970), but Brucoli also shows what held it together, in imaginative terms, even after they were physically parted. He shows how Zelda provided his work with so many "premonitions", and how their "marathon talks"

— or arguments — formed an amazingly enduring basis for their lives. "I have often thought," wrote Fitzgerald, "that those long conversations we used to have late at night, that began at midnight and lasted till we could see the first light of dawn that scared us into sleep, were something essential in our relations, a sort of closeness that we never achieved in the workaday world of marriage."

Similarly, in the last Hollywood years, instead of emphasizing the part burnt-out Fitzgerald of legend, Brucoli shows the incorrigible truisms of the "Pat Hobby" stories (17 of them), the scriptwriter who earned 58 thousand dollars in one year, and the figure of "unassuming dignity" who was discovered by the young novelist Anthony Powell sitting quietly in a corner of the MGM canteen. It's a grandeur that Jay Gatsby might not have recognised. But for anyone who knows remotely what Fitzgerald meant by "all good writing is swimming under water and holding your breath" — it's epic all right.

Richard Holmes

## Jimjokery for James Joyce's centenary

For those of us, this side of bedlarity, who have long shared James Joyce's suspicion that he was perhaps the second greatest writer to have used the English language, February 2nd has always been a day for celebration. This year, however, it marks the centenary of his birth and we may allow ourselves an extra glass of whiskey and another biscuit from the silver barrel. It is perhaps surprising that there have not been more books published to honour the occasion in view of the vast industry that has grown around the man, and who would keep a few professors busy.

The least pleasing is the most obviously erudite — at least in intention. A Star-chamber Quiry (Methuen, £8)

takes its title from *Finnegans Wake* and the four wise guardians / watchdogs / commentators / apostles for whom "he was ever their quarrel, the way they would see themselves." The four principal essays are revealing enough; but only Professor Hugh Kenner offers any considerable illumination about Joyce, and his particular approach to "modernism". Fritz Stenn is out to prove a theory: "The Principle of the Disrupted Pattern". His essay is complicated, intricate, far from lucid in argument, as he seems quite often wilfully to avoid simple and obvious correlations in order to establish a dissonance or trailing thread. E. L. Epstein, the editor of the book, concentrates on Joyce's close absorption with the human

body: interestingly focussed on the male, some readers may think that his preoccupation with *Shem in Finnegans Wake* in relation to the celebrating Shaun, and at the expense of the massive physical celebration of the body in all its aspects in *Ulysses*, is an arse-upwards view.

The Joycean Way by Bruce Bidwell and Linda Heffer (Wolfhound, £9) is entirely admirable. With evident pleasure and dedication, these two unpretentious writers have confined themselves to "a topographical guide to *Dubliners* and *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*". Their achievement is very much more. If their map photographs and diligent research are not enough, the perception of their criticism will shed new sunlight on

corners and byways of Dublin for even the most earnest surrogate citizen. They have adopted a helpful, pattern for dealing with *Dubliners* and comment on the characters in passing with compassionate dispassion: so that our sentimental inclinations in favour of, say, Maria or Eveline, are tempered by some shrewd observations on standing for Farrington, Kernan and the Two Gallants. Perhaps the authors underline too heavily Joyce's eastward longing for release; but not for anyone who understands a desire for

Less serious enthusiasts who welcome enthusiasm will find James Joyce's *Odyssey* (Hodder & Stoughton, £8.95) by Frank Delaney vastly entertaining.

Stuart Evans

## High mistress of the explaining business

Practicing History  
By Barbara Tuchman

(Macmillan, £9.95)

Not many of us are able serve both Clio, Muse of history, and Euphrosyne, Muse of journalism. Journalism is a kind of living history. But only very rare chimeras combine the worm's eye needed for the former with the eagle's eye needed by the latter. Who did both well? H. G. Wells? Old Winston Churchill, what you say? In our generation Barbara Tuchman is the only one I can think of who manages to straddle both ink arts and perform superbly well in each. Her latest book, *A Distant Mirror*, that haunting recreation of the calamitous fourteenth century, simply confirmed her place as our finest narrative historian, who lets

the facts and atmosphere speak for themselves and for the past. This collection of essays and reviews, not previously easily available in Britain, shows off the perspective of the historian and the sharp immediacy of the reporter. In both roles, like Pook-Bah, Tuchman has a genius for the corroborative detail intended to give artistic verisimilitude to an otherwise bald and unconvincing narrative. Not that her narrative is either bald or unconvincing.

As historian she manages to get in at last that the Kaiser's birthday present to his wife was the same every year: 12 hats selected by himself which she was obliged to wear. That detail is a whole book about the Kaiser; or even about Germany. As reporter on the campaign trail with FDR she

recorded that a fellow hack stayed on the train in order that the enthusiasm of the crowd might not colour his report. He explained: "When you're a New Dealer writing for a Republican paper, you have to be as objective as hell."

The book is divided into three parts. In the first she discusses the craft of writing history. "I do not invent history, even the weather." She distrusts systematic insistence on a purpose turns a historian into a prophet — and that is a different profession. But there is no such thing as a neutral or purely objective historian. Without an opinion a historian would be simply a ticking clock, and unreadable beside. Tuchman is a humanist who believes that humans are illogical. In the

second section she presents a wide selection of the fruits of her craft, ranging from marvellous pieces about the French Revolution to Henry Kissinger's own version of his pretensions and influence as Secretary of State. In the last section she considers whether we can learn from history, and concludes that to manage better next time is within our means; to anticipate does not seem to be. From Watergate to Woodrow Wilson, Tuchman is a paragon at letting human beings in their diversity explain for themselves why they do the daft and occasionally heroic things they do. It is enough to make those of us engaged in the lower reaches of the explaining trade burn our typewriters in despair. In the

Philip Howard



## English spoken here!

The Times Educational Supplement on February 5 carries eight pages on the present state of modern language teaching.

TES reporter Bob Doe assesses the hopes of using computers in language teaching and asks if this is going to be a re-run of the language laboratory fiasco.

Michael Buckley writes on the reform of modern language exams, now at a critical stage, and Eric Hawkins suggests that too many cooks have got the recipe wrong. Modern languages have been one of the great disaster areas in British education. Can we go on like this?

Also — Changing Schools — report and winning entries in the TESS competition.

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## Poetry

Tony Harrison is a poet. He is also, so it appears, something of a one-man industry. Now 44 years old, and engaged on a sonnet-sequence in roughly Merovingian form, he is at the height of his powers, pouring out poems and translations, and finding publishers for all this idiosyncratic and (occasionally) magnificent work. We have grown so used to the Larkin Syndrome, whereby a poet publishes a slim volume perhaps once in a decade, as if to prove the worth and difficulty of opening his mouth at all — that Mr Harrison's energy makes him look alarming. Yet the flux of his production is at one with the fury of its content. I take off my sceptical reviewer's hat to him, convinced that I am in the presence of the real thing.

First, his version of the *Oresteia* of Aeschylus, first performed at the National Theatre last November, and now offered in book form by Rex Collings Ltd (£3.50). This is vivid, gutsy, and agglutinative. He takes the last adjective from Ezra Pound, who used it to define the special qualities of the original (*Literary Essays of Ezra Pound*, page 273), while bewailing the fact that a search for Aeschylus in English is "deadly, accursed, mind-rendering". Mr Harrison does not mess about. He goes straight for the original glue, and renders it in a sort of sticky, eccentric, slang-inspired English. Orestes instructs Pyllades to "keep out of eye shot"; the Chorus turns to Cassandra and mocks her "pains and griefs" with the nasty retort, "Don't understand!" To which, Cassandra, only doing her job after a fashion, Off with the brideveil then. Look into truth's pupils. The truthguts. It's rising. Blowing fresh headlines.

sweeping sea-ripples into dawn's molten cauldron, then building a wave-wave as big as a mountain.

I don't much care for "wave-wave" (sounds like Gilbert Murray glued to W. H. Auden), but this is to pick holes in a translation which undoubtedly makes Aeschylus alive again. As the Chorus grudgingly admits to Cassandra: "It's as if you'd witnessed all you're describing." Mr Harrison has grasped and rendered the very essence of Greek drama: that it takes place without ceasing in a theatre of the human soul. More, he has found contemporary English words and idiomatic rhythms to match it. A remarkable achievement. I reckon Pound might have approved.

His *U.S. Martial* (Bloodaxe Books, PO Box 15N, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE99 1SN, £1) is lighter, but still goes extremely well. Here are 18 translations from poems by Marcus Valerius Martialis, made in March last year while Mr Harrison was staying in New York. The best are obscene and truthful enough to be unquotable. All of them find a happy medium between Martial's epigrammatic disgust with the social and sexual life of Rome round about the time of Christ, and Mr Harrison's feelings about his predicament on Broadway last year. Witnesses number XVI, entitled "The Joys of Separation", which can be quoted in full:

She wants more and more and more new men in her. He finally finishes Anna Karenina.

And lest this suggests that Tony Harrison is only a kind of Woody Allen of modern English poetry, have a look at his exquisite *A Kumquat* for John Keats (Bloodaxe Books, 75p). A kumquat is a Chinese orange, gold in colour, with sweet pulp and sour skin. The poem is the reverse, sweet outside and sour within. Mr Harrison plays deliciously on the

For however many kumquats that I eat I'm not sure if it's flesh or rind that's sweet, and being a man of doubt at life's mid-way I'd offer Keats some kumquats and I'd say: You'll find that one part's sweet and one part's tart: say where the sweetness or the sourness start.

This single poem should be sufficient to convince any fair-minded reader that Tony Harrison is a most considerable talent. It has much to say about Keats, about poetry, about life's brevity, about its compensations (which may well include brevity and Keats), and about the fruit which can also be preserved in many anthologies. And at the same time it has to be observed that Mr Harrison is such a restless and original poet that if he goes on writing in this role he will prove to be an anthropologist's nightmare. Good.

Selected Poems of Alun Lewis (Unwin Paperbacks, £2.50), selected by Jeremy Hooker and Gweno Lewis, presents in the chronological order of their writing the best poems of one of the best poets killed in the Second World War. Lewis has always had his admirers, but he has tended to be regarded as somewhat School of Graves (for his constant and almost morbidly realistic vision of war, but because Graves — who never met him — helped to select and then introduced a posthumous volume of his work). He may now be seen as a decent, unpretentious, persistently serious writer, deeply concerned with what he perceived to be "the single poetic theme of Life and Death". Less literary than Sidney Keyes, more accomplished than Keith Douglas, his death (which seems to have been accidental) deprived English poetry of a potentially important voice. Not just a War Poet. A poet.

Robert Nye

## Fiction

The Book of  
Laughter and  
Forgetting

By Milan Kundera

(Faber, £7.95)

The Love Hunter  
By Jon Hassler

(Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £6.95)

Max Brod called Prague the city of evil, and no-one knows its ambiguities better than under a regime of laughter and forgetting are entirely innocent there. You can be airbrushed out of history, like the unfortunate Clementine, who lent his fur hat to the Leader on a snowy balcony, the 1948 at a moment of victory, and lost his own head four years later. It is a wry joke that the stairs leading up to that balcony must have once been climbed every day by the schoolboy feet of Franz Kafka.

Prague is a city of many ghosts, not all of them powerful. Kundera concerns himself most with those whose memories have already begun to fade: those in emigration, for instance, or those who lost their jobs after the Russian invasion. Accordingly all the stories linked in this novel concern an obsession with records: Tamara, in exile, dreams of recovering love letters; Mirek, a writer, already in trouble as he is, cannot help keeping notes on everyday events, even though he knows they may well bring friends into danger. Kundera understands the passion, and the comedy of what can't be changed, and exactly how politics link themselves to absurdities of sexual encounters, so that the same Mirek finds it unbearable to remem-

ber that his first mistress was notably ugly.

When Kundera appears briefly on the pages of his own novel it is to fill in a few relevant historical details, and to point a finger at Eluard dancing elegantly in the circles of a Prague celebration the day after one of his girlfriends had been hanged by the regime for treason.

In *The Bass Saxophone* Skovronsky, a fellow Czech exile, declared jazz holy, because Nazism and Stalinism abhorred it equally. Kundera adds a footnote to the observation. One of the most telling anecdotes in the book concerns Husak's letter pleading with the Czech pop-singer Karel Gott to return from West Germany. Scholars, writers, and filmmakers the regime could spare, but a special letter followed the pop star. Pop music is power without danger. Unlike jazz, pop music accommodates. It is useful. It is essentially music minus memory. And the bitter laughter that rises from that story takes on uneasy echoes of its own in a Western context.

Jon Hassler, comes garlanded with awards and fellowships, and his new novel is written with considerable elegance: but it is a chilling tale. If someone with Multiple Sclerosis is still fit enough to take off on a duck shooting trip, it's hard to accept his friends' murder plan as a loving act, especially when the friend in question fancies his wife. Still, there are memorable descriptions of hiding and waiting, and a funny account of American family pitfalls which is entirely persuasive.

Mazes and Monsters by Rona Jaffe (Hodder & Stoughton, £6.95) makes fewer claims, and for any parents who have watched their own young spend weekends in combat with

imaginary monsters, with a "Dungeons and Dragons" Rulebook in their hand, the threat of fantasy taking over altogether will not seem implausible. Accordingly, the book has a genuine anxious thrust of suspense, and most readers will enjoy Miss Jaffe's account of the multiplicity of ways Americans attempt to make a happy marriage permanently screw up their children's chances of living in the real world. Evidently, that is one game in which nobody wins.

Elaine Feinstein

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THE ARTS

Interview

# The passions of Rostropovich

The National Symphony Orchestra of Washington today embarks on a three-week tour of Europe, its first under the impassioned leadership of Mstislav Rostropovich. He is filled with enthusiasm as he discusses the hectic schedule of the orchestra and its current repertoire of works, but becomes sombre as he talks of his late friends, Dmitri Shostakovich and Benjamin Britten. Both had agreed to write new works for the National Symphony but were unable to fulfil their promises. Rostropovich's face brightens, however, when he is asked about the orchestra's visit to London on February 20. "I'm like Great Britain, so like the music there, I ask my dear friend Sir William Walton to write something for us," he says. The commissioned piece was to have been performed earlier in the season in Washington, but Walton was not completely happy with the work and the premiere had to be postponed. The final pages of the manuscript are to be sent to Zurich for a two-week rehearsal period prior to the orchestra's arrival in London. "I am very proud that the orchestra will premiere the piece in London, just before Sir William's eightieth birthday," says Rostropovich.

In addition to the Walton, the orchestra will give Beethoven's eighth symphony and Shostakovich's fifth. The Shostakovich is particularly dear to Rostropovich's heart. His first meeting with the composer was well-known when Rostropovich left the Soviet Union in 1974. It will be recalled that he stated it as his personal mission to make the music of Shostakovich and Prokofiev — "my friends and teachers" — more widely appreciated. "When Shostakovich wrote his fifth symphony he was very young," says Rostropovich. "It came just after his crash with catastrophe — when Stalin denounced him for his opera *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*. Shostakovich was in the middle of rehearsals for his fourth symphony, withdrew it, and this symphony was not played for 35 years." His next symphony, the fifth, written after a two-year period of great suffering and emotional turmoil, was, Rostropovich says, Shostakovich's defence of his own human worth. "He had to write, of necessity, a symphony that had two faces. After the premiere of the symphony, in October 1937, all the official faces, the bureaucrats in the Soviet Union, praised it, because they wanted to show Shostakovich that they had taught him a lesson personally. His answer to their criticism was this symphony in D major, and its major tonality was our government happy. But for other reasons also they couldn't not praise it, because, even though it was not too complicated, it is a work of such genius and had such a success with the public. "I wasn't at the performance, being only 11 years old at the



time, but people tell me there were ovations lasting maybe an hour. And why? Because it was such a powerful message to his well-wishers who had feared that the critical assault might have destroyed him: 'I'm not dead, I'm still a composer. And still a great composer!' "I tell you," says Rostropovich, leaning forward in his chair, passion in his voice, "this symphony has two faces. One for the officials who are very happy about the fanfare for the finale, the incredibly loud sound and rich orchestration. But for me, a friend of Shostakovich, that D major is as if your arm is being

twisted behind you and there is a knife at your back, and the attack is telling you 'Smile.' That D major is Shostakovich's smile. For me it is also like a scream of defiance. Each stroke of the note A on the timpani conveys this strength. It is like hitting a nail on the head. Some conductors have a tendency to play this finale a little bit quickly, but I don't think this is possible, and I do it much slower." Does he feel Shostakovich would have approved of the recent defections of his son and grandson to the West? "Absolutely! Absolutely sure. I don't doubt it for a second," he replies, and

adds, after a moment's pause: "I think that this was his influence from the other world." A deeply religious man, Rostropovich has travelled widely, and he expresses affection for all the cities where he has spent some time. "I know all the good places in each city, all the restaurants," he says, smiling broadly. When asked if there is any place outside Russia he considers home, he replies: "It's very difficult to say. Here there is no monastery, but where there's a monastery there's no orchestra, so each place where I am adds a little bit of happiness to my heart."

"Through sound it is possible to express your disappointment, or your hopelessness, or the opposite, the happy moments..."

Inevitably Rostropovich dreams of one day returning to Russia, but he emphasizes that he would never go back under any kind of compromise. He knows that were he now to return to the Soviet Union he would never again be allowed to leave. Of this theoretical situation Rostropovich says: "I would die of loneliness, because now, without this kind of life, without my friends, without freedom, it would be just impossible. This is another reason why I understand how much the people who are locked up are missing. What a crime it is, for instance, that a person of such talent as the pianist Andrei Gavrilov, who won first prize at the Tchaikovsky Competition, is not allowed to perform in the West. Years go by and he is not enriched, and of course when he loses all of Russia loses."

For all Rostropovich's very real concern with human rights, it is his orchestra that at the moment keeps him most occupied. He says it is his aim that it should be as responsive as the human body. "It should have the ability to make a variety of different sounds, because for me sounds not only sound as sound but can be useful to your soul, your feelings. Through sound it is possible to express your disappointment, or your hopelessness, or the opposite, the happy moments. That's why I love working with an orchestra."

Patricia Barnes

Paperbacks

## Forster's passage to Egypt at last

Alexandria, by E. M. Forster (Michael Haag, £5.95, hard-back £8.95)

Over the centuries certain water cities become liquid history. Beloved Venice is one. London on Thames is another. Alexandria is twice as old as either of them, the prototype cosmopolis, haunting and haunted open city for writers in exile from Theocritus to Larry Durrell. This book has a curious history. Forster wrote it while he was stationed in Alexandria as a Red Cross volunteer during the first war, and during a hiatus in writing *A Passage to India*. He set out to marshal the activities of Alexandria during the 23 centuries of her existence after the fashion of a son of lumiere pageant in his short history and guide brings back to life the immense ghost city that lies behind the shabby little Mediterranean port, re-people it with its extraordinary procession of personages from all over the old worlds who have found a sort of home in Alexandria. By the accidents and incompetence of the publishing trade, his book is published now, 65 years after it was written, for the first time in Britain by a new travel imprint.

The history in the first half is a model of popularization without elitist talking down. It gives Forster a chance to parade his contempt for the Christian and the theological, and his love for the Hellenistic and the humanistic. It is particularly sharp about the Alexandrian mystics. A couple of pages on Plotinus show the same creative insight into mystical thought that you find in *A Passage to India*. The second part arranges tours of points of interest in an attractive and efficient way, though Forster himself said rightly that the best way to see a city is to walk about it quite aimlessly. The guide is out of date. The foreign pass by and metrics of Alexandria have gone. The cafes retain their immortal names (Pastroudis, Baudrot...), but are dead. The great harbour is a mere cemetery. Cafes and books and furniture have been housed in a little museum at the top of the Greek Consulate. But Alexandria lives, even for armchair travellers of the imagination, in a book like this, and since *Life Before Man* is a modern saga, the daily life of a bunch of well-educated, middle-class, middle-aged Canadians whose jobs and lives merge — the Royal Ontario Museum and its dinosaurs — about large who brought them to where they are (nowhere good) and make decisions that invariably lead to greater, rather bloodless middle. Their lives are seedy, no more so than those of other middle-aged, middle-class, educated people in other countries, but definitely, in the words of Leslie (pronounced "Lashia"), "tacky." Margaret Atwood is not, ever, a tacky novelist, but an even and highly intelligent writer, sometimes without humour. She has a fine ear for words and a quick wit for absurdities; and she is very good indeed on the accommodations that go into people's lives, their pacts with memory, the terrible torture they inflict upon each other and the terrible guilt they go through when they think about it.

Philip Howard

Aspects of Alice, Lewis Carroll's Dreamchild as seen through the Critics' Looking-Glasses 1865-1971, edited by Robert Phillips (Penguin, £2.95)

To Robert Graves, Alice is "that prime mover of our nation." This is a personal collection of interpretations of her trips to Wonderland and Through the Looking-Glass, trips which have invited comparison with Wordsworth, Henry James and T. S. Eliot, and provoked a wealth of different responses. Many are as pedantic as the stiff and priggish mathematician, Charles Dodgson; many, Woolf and Priestley, as diverting as the tales he told extempore to the

Dean of Christ Church's daughter.

The trouble with most of them is that, being too specialist for works pertaining directly to childhood experience, they are shaped on the Nonesense principle of that world. It is as if Humpty Dumpty and the Caterpillar have reverted to the dyspeptic dons on which they are modelled, able not only to explain all the poems that were ever invented but a good many that have not been.

Dodgson said of *Alice in Wonderland* that "the why of this book cannot, and need not, be put into words." He would, I imagine, turn in his rabbit-hole to discover himself the victim of an unresolved Oedipal fixation, who wrote stories under the influence of LSD about a girl who is the symbolic equation for the phallus and whose adventures are determined by his own desire for "complete virility." In fact, as one critic contends, he would have left the writing of them to Mark Twain.

As Alice says, "it's really dreadful the way all the creatures argue. It's enough to drive me crazy." In the end she is sharper and wiser than the majority of her critics, and if she disappears under their mass of psycho-babble at least, like the Cheshire Cat, she leaves her grin behind.

Nicholas Shakespeare

Life Before Man, by Margaret Atwood (Virago Modern Classics, £2.95)

There is a good passage in Margaret Atwood's *Life Before Man* when Elizabeth, world-weary heroine, sits by her door as neighbouring children, dressed "in the shapes of their own desires or their parents' fears" as the Frankies or rats pass by to gather their Halloween treats. It is cold. She is bored and full of memories. Barmen and Chinamen come and go. Voices in the street pipe out "She's out. She's out. The witches are out."

The scene is unusually lyrical in a long, fragmented novel, made up of alternating chapters seen from the point of view of the main characters, switching time and tense. *Life Before Man* is a modern saga, the daily life of a bunch of well-educated, middle-class, middle-aged Canadians whose jobs and lives merge — the Royal Ontario Museum and its dinosaurs — about large who brought them to where they are (nowhere good) and make decisions that invariably lead to greater, rather bloodless middle.

Their lives are seedy, no more so than those of other middle-aged, middle-class, educated people in other countries, but definitely, in the words of Leslie (pronounced "Lashia"), "tacky." Margaret Atwood is not, ever, a tacky novelist, but an even and highly intelligent writer, sometimes without humour. She has a fine ear for words and a quick wit for absurdities; and she is very good indeed on the accommodations that go into people's lives, their pacts with memory, the terrible torture they inflict upon each other and the terrible guilt they go through when they think about it.

Caroline Moorehead

RLPO/Williams

Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool/Radio 3

Edward Cowie lives at Morecambe (where I spent many a boyhood day on the in-clement winter shore), and was born in Suffolk just when Britten was composing *Peter Grimes*. His newest composition is, at last, a seascape. It is called *Concerto for Orchestra*, subtitled "Studies in the Movement of Water", and really it is the overture to a brand-new *Flying Dutchman*.

Howard Williams on Tuesday conducted his first performance by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in their own hall. It was broadcast live-so, *faisle de Asie*, I gladly listened at home. The sound-quality of the broadcast was magnificently vivid and robust, thanks to Radio 3, the orchestral playing masterful and vibrant.

Cowie admits only that he found his musical material at

the place in Morecambe where three rivers flow into the Irish Sea. He must have blown up his observations. His concerto makes perfect sense otherwise, if you know the Suffolk coast and the Irish Sea in what we have now to call Cumbria.

We begin in a substantial boat on the beach, the rocks splashed by boisterous waves. The boat moves out, encounters the breeze and the groundswell. The foam breaks playfully against the prow (yes, Debussy, why not?). Then brass erupts with huge breakers that hurtle heavy jetsam on to the beach and destroy huts on the shore. The storm sprays the boat, like a fire hose or a tap in full flood, the thunder cracks.

The wind and rain abate ever and anon, only to return. Your clothes, the sails, the lines, the woodwork, all are drenched. Sometimes the rain abates, and perhaps the wind will get you dry in time. Sometimes the wind drops, and calm broods benignly over the scene.

Concerts

## An exciting new musical seascape

There is a hint of cosiness below decks. But always the storm is resumed, the vessel rolls fearfully: this is not music for the seasick-prone. At the end the rain has dropped, the wind blows free, the steady skipper has won, and the voyage continues after the music has come to a halt.

What a thrilling piece, even if one interprets the contents otherwise. Like the sea, onshore or afloat, Cowie's music is never quite the same; the next challenge is always a contrast. The inspiration is natural, the effect romantic.

William Mann

Lindsay Quartet

St John's

In terse programme notes Elizabeth Macouchy and John Caskin said little about their single-movement quartets on Tuesday, yet both agreed they were dealing not

just with ideas but with "characters" changing in various situations. And, though I doubt that the dramatic metaphor is much more useful in definition than the words "sonata form", certainly the personages of Macouchy's eleventh quartet are sharply differentiated and their reactions strongly argued, enough for this performance to recall the work vividly to my mind after a gap of several years since my only other hearing of it.

Caskin's quartet will be much tougher to remember. It embodies a profusion of original ideas, caught and surpassed with reckless speed, and, while Caskin knows how to score a unison B flat so that it sounds fresh and interesting, he can also set down complex things that make themselves heard as complex. His quartet, playing for 20 minutes, thus stretches attention but never bores. It is a piece of music that is always sounds as if it matters, partly because almost nothing in it is stale

or easily accomplished. And, just when fascination threatens to wane, the work is brought to its climax with an increasing density of memories of itself, then sufficed as it tries to begin for the third time. Proving that they thrive on challenge, the Lindsay Quartet followed their glowing premiere of the Caskin with a lustreously sung and danced performance of Tippett's first quartet, prefaced by the Adagio opening movement which was dropped in revision and has not been heard for more than 40 years. Undoubtedly the quartet is the better without it, though it would be a shame to lose again a piece so strangely gloomy and convulsive, yet recognizably Tippett's and of the Thirties.

Finally the Lindsay set themselves with great gusto to Macouchy's twelfth quartet, another compact expression of the strength of their art. This composer happily finds in the medium.

Paul Griffiths

Theatre

Our Bidders

Playhouse, Nottingham

With a title like that, contempt goes without saying, and the main interest in Somerset Maugham's 1915 comedy lies in observing which of his title-hunting and fortune-hunting British aristocrats are of a degree of grudging respect.

In *The Summing Up* Maugham likened his plays of this period to those of the Restoration, which goes to confirm my view that playwrights are seldom to be trusted as guides to their own work. If, as he advised, you look at *Our Bidders* as a conversation piece, you can only be struck by the banality of the conversation. The occasional phrase leapfrogs into the next scene. "She has been my best friend for years... she has not one redeeming feature" — but for the most part the early scenes are a desert of feeble banter at the expense of the characters. An American innocent finds herself in the den of the Anglo-American aristocracy, and there is as little interest in the question of whether young Bessie will succumb to an

English milord as in the exposure of the bored, querulous ladies who have made it into Debutant from Midland Western hardware businesses.

The comedy comes to life precisely where it abandons conversation for action in the second act. The company are in the midst of a country house party when their hostess, Pearl, is discovered in amorous dalliance with her best friend's gigolo. Not much of a situation, you may think; but from it there develops one of Maugham's highly-charged double entendres, one public and one personal.

The public story shows virtue triumphing through Bessie's decision to renounce London's fatal glamour and go home. The personal story is worked out through two sets of relationships, both showing the power of uncaring people over those who love them. You cannot say that the play presents them sympathetically; it does say that if you want to survive and get on in the world this is the way to do it.

The most interesting feature of Richard Digby Day's revival is the gradual emergence of Barbara Jefford's Pearl as the most commanding figure on stage. To begin with there is nothing much to distinguish her from Phyllis Calvert's gigolo-

fancying Dooshesse, Muriel Barker's charity-fixerated Princess, and her other vacillating cronies. After the miniature scandal, Maugham gives her a first scene in which she woos back the members of her outraged party. It is no small scandal to her; her profession as a society hostess depends on it. And Miss Jefford rises to the challenge in a series of contrasting seductions, winding up with the clear-sighted acknowledgement that the English only tolerate her because they love getting free entertainment.

Visually, the most arresting feature of the show is the decline of Miss Calvert into a pathetic figure in a French revolutionary hat clashing a dancing master in a lumbering tango: an image that even Post's theatrical Sabbath, "A youth of frolics, an old age of cards". There are also well-focused satirical performances from Peter Laird as the complete Anglo-American snob, Julian Jones as the petulant gigolo, reserving his few smiles for the promise of the next ruinously expensive present, and Richard Mayes as Pearl's booming sugar daddy.

Trevor Pict's set are not quite to Maugham's demand for Bakst-like splendour, but his costumes are stunning.

Irving Wardle

Jazz

Flip Phillips

The Canteen

The first days of his season at Covent Garden's newest jazz bar have already proved Flip Phillips to be a far subtler tenor saxophonist than his reputation — which for most listeners rests on his membership of the Woody Herman band in the middle 1940s and his subsequent appearances with Jazz at the Philharmonic — would suggest. With Jazz at the Phil, Phillips's party piece was an extended solo on "Perdido", rivaling Illinois Jacquet for crowd-pleasing scream-'n'-holler freneticism. Little of this is evident at the Canteen, where he reveals himself in his natural state as a soloist of considerable ingenuity.

Accompanied by Eddie Thompson (piano), Harvey Weston (bass) and Ronnie Verrell (drums), he delivers

Swing Era stompers by the yard, but turns them into platforms for thoughtful concise improvisations which bear comparison with late Lester Young in their glancing, epigrammatic quality and in their flow across the chorus lines. His tone is not large, but has a sculptured quality containing the merest hint of febrility; it was heard to best effect on a perfectly flighted reading of "Embraceable You", wherein densely detailed runs were stitched together with perfect logic (and, on one occasion, with a simply enormous scooped note a la Johnny Hodges).

Even the flag-wavers bear evidence of meticulous care: the exchanges of four-bar phrases and Weston's neatly deployed bass breaks turn the most apparently casual number into a piece of firmly founded architecture.

Richard Williams

Television

## Ring of untruth

Four-hour drama slots with automatic repeats and the money for large casts and lavish location work are not exactly plentiful these days, and it is a great pity that the BBC's latest should have been squandered on something as mincingly Bloom-burish as *The Bell* (BBC 2). No lover of Iris Murdoch's prose fictions, I did not expect to be ravished by Reg Gadeny's dramatization, but neither did I anticipate the sheer silliness of what came out of the tube.

For this is not a work of literary refinement or psychological subtlety. The lines are so mangled that the actors have difficulty speaking them; the characters are crudely and implausibly drawn. A couple like the Greenfields would never have married a dot like Reg would need the charm and allure of a Marilyn Monroe to send the chaps over like mincepies as she does. Rural England may indeed be cluttered with communities of harmless weirdos, but they are not, like these, made two-dimensionally out of cardboard.

At the opposite pole from Stella Gibbons's *Cold Comfort Farm* and lacking Iry Compton Barrett's ironic detachment, the Murdoch/Gadeny approach is essentially a cosy one. Behind the whimsical, affectionate mockery lies a solemn acceptance of their bloodless world of nuns and eunuchs; they are not, like the world even as, with painful contrivance, they blow it apart. They revel in its clanking symbolism (did you notice, incidentally, how at moments the two-ton bells became light as feathers?) and they revel in its ghastly gentility. Last night, as a change from Dora, we got a bare-breasted nun, and pent-up homosexual Nick shot himself. Missed again: real life is neither so pallid nor so lurid.

Chronicle (BBC 2) was entitled "Ancient Mariners" and hailed from somewhere across the Atlantic. Like most bought-in documentaries it had blemishes which home-grown products have mostly eliminated: crude artists' impressions of Greek slaves at work, faintly hilarious interviews and wooden pieces of commentary. One heavy academic lady spoke of "wood-intensive" methods of boatbuilding, and described a "vicious circle situation" (a propos wars and the demand for ships) with fitting circumlocution.

What the programme had to say was interesting. I could now give a very competent lesson to a class of ten-year-olds on the history of Mediterranean shipbuilding techniques and I would make sure they followed the example of the American Institute of Nautical Archaeology and made scale-models of the work of those brilliant early sculptors in wood.

Michael Church

● *The Portage to San Cristobal of A.H.* opens at the Mermaid Theatre on February 17. It was inaccurately stated in our last edition, with John Dexter, the play's director, that the original novel by George Steiner is unavailable in Israel. It is on sale there.

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It is not simply 'another Vietnam' but there are worrying parallels

# Can Reagan salvage El Salvador?

El Salvador has been in the front of the news this week, with the decision of the Reagan administration to ship \$55m in emergency military equipment and the prospect that it will ask Congress for a further increase in military and economic aid.

To send this aid, President Reagan had to certify that the Salvadoran regime was improving its human rights record; he has been challenged in Congress on this, and on his policy towards El Salvador in general.

Until only a few years ago El Salvador was a little reported backwater, known for all at its exports of coffee and its repressive military governments. Like the other small countries that are struggling along the Central American isthmus, it has a reputation for violence, matching the volcanoes that cover the region, but what happened there was not felt to matter a great deal to the rest of the world.

Now, however, events have thrust the country into the headlines, to the point that it is being asked whether it is becoming a "second Vietnam". The implication is that the United States is again involving itself in guerrilla war in a tropical country which will damage its standing in the area and cause dissension at home.

There are obvious differences from Vietnam. For one thing, no American combat troops are engaged in El Salvador; and it seems unlikely given the outcry it would cause, that Washington would follow the path taken in Vietnam and expand the handful of advisers now with the Salvadoran army to a fighting force.

But there are worrying parallels. The principal one is that the United States, in the cause of anti-communism and in ignorance of local circumstances, is again committing itself to a repressive regime with only a tenuous hold on the country. This provides abundant propaganda material for America's critics abroad — balancing criticism of the Soviet Union over Afghanistan and Poland — and there is the danger that in the end the effort may prove to be futile.

There is also another significant difference from Vietnam. Whereas South-east Asia is far from the United States and from areas of vital interest to it, Central America is on its doorstep. That means that the policy choices are that much more critical.

El Salvador has to be seen, in fact, not so much for its own sake as for its place in the broader context of Central America and the Caribbean. It is one of a number of small countries which have

been under strong American influence for many years and which have often had repressive governments, determined to resist social change. That was the case of Cuba until 1959; and the revolution there, followed by Castro's alignment with the Soviet Union, came as a shock to the United States. It was seen, not so much as the reaction of a small country which was resentful of domi-

**The American policy of simply backing the Salvadoran regime and refusing to envisage negotiations between the regime and the opposition is clearly inadequate**

nation by an overwhelmingly powerful neighbour, but as an intrusion of Soviet influence into the Americas.

Cuba was followed 20 years later by Nicaragua. President Anastasio Somoza, the last of a dynasty which had ruled the country for more than 40 years and which had always had close relations with Washington, was overthrown by the Sandinistas and their allies. The new regime proclaimed its intention of maintaining a mixed economy and political pluralism,

but there was no doubt of the cordial relations it had with Havana, and that was what set alarm bells ringing in Washington.

The fear was, and is, that Nicaragua would prove to be only the first of a new row of dominoes. Next in line would be El Salvador, to be followed by Guatemala and possibly Honduras. In other words, a block of small leftist regimes would be created, all of them linked to Cuba.

To the south, they could present a threat to Panama and its canal. To the north, they might even cause instability in Mexico, a giant compared to any of them, but one with few of the causes of its own social inequalities. And the tiny islands of the Caribbean could also be at risk, as was shown by Grenada's alignment with Cuba.

A decision was taken, therefore, to draw the line in El Salvador. The decision was taken by the Carter administration, which had seen the Somoza regime in Nicaragua collapse in a surprisingly short time. It was upheld and published by the Reagan administration, with its particular sensitivity to anything that looked like a challenge from Cuba or the Soviet Union.

The trouble is that the plan made in 1979 worked out. A few months after the Nicaraguan

revolution, there was a military coup in El Salvador in which a group of younger officers came to power. They outlined a series of reforms they brought in civilian politicians, some of them left of centre, and they appeared perfectly to meet Washington's prescription of a moderate regime which would take the steam out of pressures from the extreme left.

They were opposed from the start, however, by the extreme left; and they proved incapable of controlling the armed forces, which stepped up their repression, committing atrocities against people with suspected sympathies with the guerrillas. The result is that, instead of calm and reform, the country is now being torn apart by a virtual civil war.

President Duarte is a Christian Democrat with good democratic credentials. His government has begun to carry out some reforms — the redistribution of land, for instance.

But this same Salvadoran regime is responsible for a chilling series of atrocities. And it has been unable to defeat the guerrillas, who control parts of the country and have begun to show good public relations sense in admitting reporters to their camps.

It is understandable that the Americans should be



Troops trained by American advisers occupy a Salvadoran village; is the United States committing itself again?

concerned about developments in Central America. There is a strong Marxist element in the regime in Nicaragua; and so there is among the guerrillas in El Salvador, though they are more divided than the Nicaraguan Sandinistas. There is room for doubt about how much Cuba is actually helping the guerrillas, but there can be no doubt about its sympathy with their aims.

But the American policy of simply backing the Salvadoran regime and refusing to

envisage negotiations between the regime and the opposition is clearly inadequate. The notion that the regime's standing will be enhanced by the elections due next month is misguided because it would be impossible to hold fair elections in present circumstances. And there is little sympathy for American policies, either in Latin America or western Europe.

The solution can only be by bringing what leverage Washington has — and in the

case of El Salvador it is considerable — to moderate the policies of repression and by working for an accommodation between the regime and its critics. It will not be easy or quick, and the outcome may not be quite what the United States would have chosen. But the time is past when Washington can dictate what happens there and it has to adapt to changed circumstances.

Peter Strafford

## How the railways can survive

by Richard Hope  
Editor of Railway Gazette

As London's commuters struggle to work by bus, tube, car or bicycle for the eighth time, the rest of Britain must be baffled by all the fuss about people who, as soon think of going to work by balloon as catching a train. As for industry, only coal and steel are feeling the pinch. With under-used lorries moving swiftly to fill the gap, the main problem is high costs.

Nursed on a diet of pro-rail propaganda from his employer and union, the average railwayman perceives Britain's 11,000 miles of steel tracks as veins through which the nation's life-blood flows.

The truth is very different. Rail's 7 per cent share of passenger kilometres is swamped by private cars moving 10 times as much freight, while freight has sagged to only 16 per cent of tonne-kilometres hauled by road and rail. Even these sorry statistics conceal the full extent of rail's retreat: in terms of what the customer is prepared to pay for his transport, the railways now collect less than 4 per cent of the £17,000 a year spent on moving freight. Small wonder that a CBI spokesman dismissed the current dispute as a "non-event".

In the year ending March 31, 1982, British Rail will cost the taxpayer £1,000m, for the £920m external finance limit set by the Government will certainly be breached. This is 40 per cent of turnover — a better result than most European railways achieve — but cash limits have only been met in the past five years by deferring maintenance and renewals.

Before such matters as electrification can be tackled, 800 miles of track overdue for replacement must be attended to. Indeed, it is reckoned that 3,000 miles of track will be closed as unsafe by 1990 if spending continues at current levels.

It is no secret that some members of the Government are fed up with what Whitehall calls the "Railway Problem". If the idea of paving over tracks to make roads is dismissed as simplistic — Britain has already closed 13,000 miles of railway, of which less than 100 miles have actually been exploited in this way — those who

advocate a Final Solution get a sympathetic hearing.

Yet our railways do not lack supporters. In October 1972 the disclosure in *The Sunday Times* of plans to close up to half the post-Beeching network caused a storm within the Conservative Party. Until the present Secretary of State for Transport, David Howell, replaced Norman Fowler in last autumn's Cabinet reshuffle, no passenger railway of consequence had been approved for closure in nine years.

Mr Howell quickly approved closures of two lines in Scotland, but he confirmed to me this week (if with rather less vehemence than Mr Fowler) the Government's desire to avoid "substantial" cuts in BR's network.

Most governments value the contribution rail can make to saving energy and oil through electrification, reducing injury and congestion on the roads and so forth — but none of these laudable objectives is achieved by a railway which consistently carries less freight in every year that passes. Significantly, Britain is now the only major country in the world moving less freight by rail than at any time in this century.

Mr Howell admits to Treasury reluctance to put more public money into BR, but insists that even those of his

Cabinet colleagues less favourably disposed towards BR have been impressed by the manpower reduction achieved last year.

When the strike is over, there is to be a thorough review of BR's finances. A new business plan has already been prepared showing how inter-city trains can be run at a profit, and Mr Howell's intention is to support rural and commuter lines at a level that will allow them to be properly maintained — once he is satisfied that they are being operated in the most economical way.

Mr Howell "would like to see more investment in rail", though the extra cash must be generated internally, or from the private sector. This sounds fine, but the 1982-83 cash limit is £950m — only 3 per cent more than 1981-82, despite 12 per cent inflation. Unless this limit is eased, rail investment will virtually cease.

If there were no medium-term prospect of cutting BR's costs or raising revenue, the outlook would be bleak. Cash limits at the present level could only be achieved by dramatic action like closing the railway down completely at weekends. This would drop BR into a black hole of dwindling services and revenue that could have only one logical end: disintegration of the national rail network into a tatty service for commuters into London

and a few isolated lines connecting coal mines with power stations.

If the board gets its productivity package, however, it may be able to do more in the process, there is one area where the extra cash needed for electrification and other investment might be found.

The great opportunity lies in freight. Paradoxically, it is BR's dismal market share that points the way, because it provides a generous scope for growth if the competitive balance with road can be tipped the right way.

It is mainly the archaic rules governing rostering that hamstring the freight business today. With footplate staff averaging 4,000 miles a year on freight duties, and a reduction in wages to the crew each time a freight train moves one mile! Worse still use of locos and wagons is sacrificed on the altar of economic crew rostering.

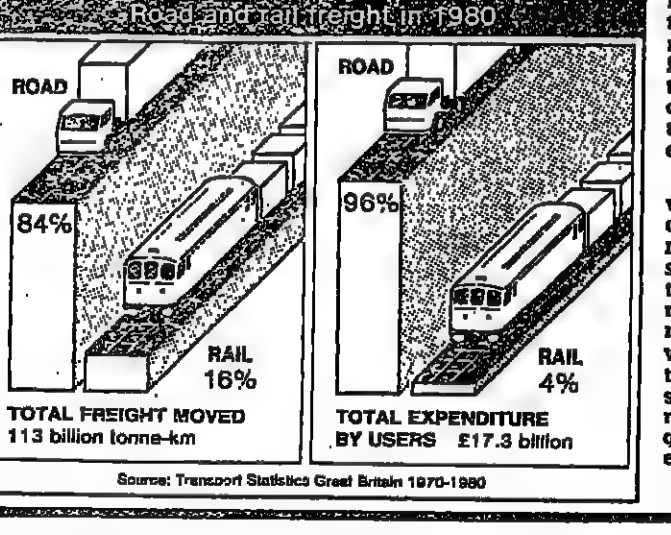
At the heart of the current dispute with the train drivers lies this thorny problem of excessive crew costs, which is destroying BR's freight business. Flexible rostering is just the start.

Research shows that 40 to 50 million tons of freight moving over 200 miles could be won from the road, given the doubling of train crew productivity that is clearly possible. What matching gain can the road haulier look forward to, apart from the 40-tonne lorry?

While this would only increase rail tonnage by a third, it would double freight revenue from £600m to £1,200m a year, quite enough to justify main line electrification. Given a Channel tunnel, the total could be even higher.

The big question is not whether rail has the technical capacity to compete with road for what is, after all, still a small segment of the total market. The doubt that remains is whether, even now, the train drivers' conviction that the world owes them a living remains unshaken. If so, 10,000 railwaymen could join the queues before the next election.

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## Lord Carver takes up his pen for peace

Field Marshal Lord Carver, the former Chief of the Defence Staff, is writing a book about peace. He has been commissioned by Matthew Evans, chairman and managing director of Faber, who is, though Carver may not know it, a unilateralist and veteran of the Aldermaston marches.

Evans heard Carver in radio discussion, arguing, with trenchant Wykehamist rationalism, the irresponsibility and illogicality of contemplating limited nuclear war. Evans wrote a letter inviting the book and within two days had a phone call confirming a delivery date — April 1.

The two have yet to meet, but already Evans seems a little overawed by the tall soldier with a reputation for laying waste to sacred cattle. "He sounds pretty formidable", Evans confessed.

Carver says the book he is writing is tentatively entitled *A Policy for Peace* and briskly deploys his arguments. "Nuclear war cannot be considered as an effective continuation of any reasonable policy", he says. "The situation has changed since it was conceivable, and perhaps misguidedly possible to think of war as a reasonable extension of state policy. It would be extremely imprudent to assume that if nuclear war starts it will be possible to keep it limited."

He is totally against the abolition of nuclear weapons, which would be putting the clock back to a time when it was still possible to think war reasonable.

Nuclear weapons do only two things: stop the great powers fighting each other, and if that — by any misfortune — fails, stop them using nuclear weapons.

Unilateralist Marcher Evans may now ponder whether he heard Lord Carver on the radio, or misheard him.

## Warm Alliance

Humphrey Berkeley, leading contender for a record in political uncertainty, will be fighting under his third party banner in May. He has just been chosen as SDP candidate for the Chislehurst ward of Hounslow borough council. Berkeley was formerly Conservative MP for Lancaster, and then Labour candidate for North Fylde.

Berkeley's running partner on the Alliance ticket will be Liberal Joy Skinner. Their alliance is more warm and close than can be said of SDP-Liberal relationships in the country at large. Berkeley is already godfather to her eldest son.

## Fouling the nest

It is good news that we can now buy cheaper cars abroad without having to collect them personally, and better still that David Howell says Britain is not in the business of erecting artificial barriers to trade.

Perhaps this means that we may expect a prompt end to the restriction on imports of UHT milk from other EEC countries. Ministry officials explain, with a mean twinkle in their eyes, that it is all purely on health grounds, but fail to explain why,

## THE TIMES DIARY

Other columns speculate. This one informs. (There goes a postage to someone if you were one, which will doubtless fetch a friendly flurry of brickbats the next time PHS speculates unprofitably.) The next editor of *The Tablet*, the remarkable Roman Catholic periodical which counts Graham Greene among its contributors, is to be John Wilkins. The vacancy arising on the retirement of Tom Burns, the present editor, aroused special

interest because *The Tablet* has had only eight editors in 142 years. Wilkins was formerly assistant editor of the paper for five years from 1967, when Burns took over from the 30-year tenure predecessor, Douglas Woodruff. He has since been working for the BBC's foreign staff. Burns, who continues as non-executive chairman of the board, took no part in the choice but wholeheartedly approves it. It will, he says, reassure readers that care has been taken to ensure continuity in the paper's proud record of intellectual independence.

if this is so, imports of UHT cream and dairy ice cream are not similarly banned. A cynic would say it had something to do with maintaining the exceptionally high level of liquid milk prices in Britain, and PHS is, of course, a professional cynic.

Equally neither PHS nor anyone else can actually prove that the Ministry of Agriculture's ban on Commercial importation of poultry and poultry products is related to the threat of a turkey processing plant in Normandy big enough to supply the whole British market, and the low price of eggs in France, rather than fowl pest. Yet it is a fact that every day-tripper returning on the ferries can now bring back one kilogram of any fresh meat, which must leave our supposed defences against fowl pest pretty tattered.

And so to b & b We are, it seems, good in bed and better at breakfast. Signorine Welles, who has just completed

18 months' bed and breakfasting in Britain and beyond, is so content with what she found that she is convinced we offer "the best bed and breakfast in the world", and has made that the grandiloquent title of her newly published guide book on the subject.

Admittedly she interlarded her round of egg-and-bacon platters with visits to country houses and historic hotels, to which she was preparing another guide simultaneously. They are, she insists, two completely different worlds, and she would not say which she preferred beyond volunteering that "bed and breakfast is pure

fun".



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fun".

She got the idea for the b & b book when she wanted to tour Britain after years in America. She advertised in newspapers around the world asking for recommendations, and was inundated with replies from nostalgic holidaymakers who thought our landladies were wonderful. Then she and an assistant took to the road to see for themselves, sleeping in 800 beds and downing 800 hearty breakfasts. "You never know what you are going to get — Jacobean manor, timbered cottage or ancient vicarage. Some of the houses are architectural gems, but too big for the owners who welcome you with open arms." Last tip for indigent travellers — best value of all is in Eire.

## Diplomatic tips

The new Israeli ambassador designate to Washington, Moshe Arens, who takes up his post next week, received some public advice from four of his predecessors at a dinner in Tel Aviv.

The host, Samuel Lewis, the American ambassador to Israel, set the tone by offering Arens a farewell gift — a bowl of aspin. The former ambassador to Washington, Eliahou Eilat (1953-57), advised Arens to leave embassy work to aides and to appeal directly to the American people. Abe Hartmann (1957-61) offered the tip of thermal underwear for presidential inaugurations, always held out-doors in freezing weather, while Simcha Diniz (1972-78) recommended paying always by credit card because people who pay cash are suspect.

The former Labour Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, ambassador from 1968 to 1972, warned Arens never to propose anything to the Americans — who would know where to find him if they needed him.

## Small World

In an impressive display of solidarity with their summarily dismissed editor, Dr Michael O'Donnell, the salaried writers of *World Medicine* and 13 regular contributors, have announced their resignations. The acting editor, Mark Allen, drafted by the owners, IPC, from *Nursing Mirror*, is left with one trained reporter, until recently the editor's secretary, and hastily gathered freelancers.

Those abandoning ship include Professor Bryan Brooke, consultant editor and emeritus professor of surgery at the University of London; Jeremy Laurence, former features editor; Tim Albert, executive editor; Katherine Whitehorn and Derek Cooper of *The Observer*; Dr David Delvin; Dr Bernard Dixon, former editor of *New Scientist*; and the political correspondent, Hugh Macpherson.

O'Donnell has hopes of reviving the magazine's old spirit elsewhere. When IPC became sole owners, the staff were told they would be moving to Sutton, Surrey, and he was given one afternoon to get out. He has since had an attack of shingles, which hardly seems surprising, though that is not a professional opinion.

PHS





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## LAST CHANCE BEFORE SHUT-DOWN

Aslef considers its case good enough to hobble the railways for a month on end, but apparently not good enough to stand up to inquiry even by as sympathetic an observer as Lord McCarthy. Rather than state its case, the union has responded to the invitation by rearranging its days of stoppage so as to cause greater disruption of services and greater loss to its already debt-ridden employer, without incurring any further loss of earnings for its members. The fact that Aslef's implied assessment of the weakness of its case is accurate is no comfort to those who see the railway system in its present form threatened with destruction by the self-righteous cussedness of a doomed craft union in defence of a doomed restrictive practice.

The inquiry which started yesterday is not binding: Aslef had already refused binding arbitration. Lord McCarthy's record as chairman of the Rail Staff National Tribunal has been marked by a distinctly relaxed view of the urgency of improving productivity. The terms of reference drawn up by Aslef mention last August's agreement on productivity as well as the one on pay, but they do not oblige the committee to

accept BR's view that the latter is conditional on the former. But for Aslef even the mention is too much.

It is easy to envisage what chance there would be of improving rail efficiency in future years if a strike pursued in this spirit was allowed to succeed. The two larger rail unions would see what an obstinate tenth of the workforce could do, and draw their own conclusions. The cost of an incurably over-manned service would enforce harsher economies and service cuts eventually. There can be no giving way on the central issue of flexible rostering.

Aslef had effectively isolated itself by its refusal: even Mr Len Murray has been moved to mild protest. But that does not make the dispute any less difficult for BR to fight in financial terms. Business is down by fifty and even eighty per cent in some sectors, but the board goes on paying most of its staff at least at basic rates, and paying the drivers themselves for four days of each week. The case for limiting these losses as far as possible grows stronger every day. As the borrowed funds run short it becomes harder to justify their going on pay for days when no trains run, and to justify stretching out the agony by trying to provide

incomplete services on the odd days that Aslef permits.

It would be wrong for BR to make any move while Lord McCarthy's committee is sitting. It is expected to report early next week. Or, it now appears, the committee may abandon its task if Aslef persists in its refusal to attend. The report, if there is one, is not a foregone conclusion: if the committee finds that flexible rostering is optional, the board should rely on its own commercial judgment that it is essential. If an acceptable formula for reconciling Aslef to the change is proposed, it should be put immediately to the union. If they reject it, or if the inquiry is aborted, then the board should suspend the agreement of the footplate-men's guaranteed working week at once and stop paying them until they are prepared to work normally. How long railwaymen belonging to the two unions should be paid their guaranteed wage is a matter for the financial and political judgment of the board. In any case the money to pay those wages would soon run out. It would then be for the Government to ensure that more funds would be available to the railway until operations could be resumed on the basis of productive labour productivity.

## PALESTINIAN AUTONOMY

The Israeli proposals for Palestinian autonomy published this week do not hold out any hope of progress towards the solution of the Palestinian problem. Although Israeli spokesmen have worked hard to present Israel's offer as a very generous one, suggesting for instance that "eighty per cent of governmental powers" will be exercised by the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza, or that "what we are offering is equivalent to the United States cabinet without Haig and Weinberger", it is clear that such statements are meaningless in the context of the actual situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

This situation is dominated by two factors. One is the continuing process of Israeli settlement. The other is the aspiration of the Arab inhabitants for independence. The first renders any proposal for autonomy meaningless so long as it is "personal" rather than "territorial". The Palestinians will not actually be in control of their own affairs so long as they have no control over the Israeli settlers living in their midst. The settlements do not exist in a vacuum. They impinge constantly on the daily life of the Arab inhabitants, as even Mr Mustafa Dodin, leader of the Israeli-backed "Village League" in the Hebron area, bitterly complains.

The second point — the aspiration for Palestinian independence means that no form of autonomy will cut any ice politically unless it holds out at least the hope of progress towards independence. What form independence would take is debatable. Many Palestinians in the West Bank, and some in Gaza, would hope, and even assume, that a future Palestinian entity would be very closely

linked to Jordan — possibly in a federal or confederal arrangement. But they insist that this is a decision for them to take: their right to self-determination must be recognized.

The late President Sadat understood this point clearly. In his famous speech to the Knesset in 1977 he insisted on the right of the Palestinians to form their own state if they so wished, and his hope of selling the Camp David accord to the Palestinians was based on the idea that it provided a transitional solution enabling them to exercise their right of self-determination, by negotiating through elected representatives, within five years.

President Mubarak is sticking to that line. He insists that nothing would be achieved by Egyptian concessions to the Israeli concept of autonomy, since it is not Egypt's signature that will determine the success or failure of any autonomy agreement: it is the willingness of the Palestinian population to believe in such an agreement and to try to make it work. For there to be any chance of that, autonomy would have to mean effective control of the whole area of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, including those land and water resources which are public domain under Ottoman law (though often, by long-established custom, in private use). The Arabs of East Jerusalem, who are unquestionably Palestinians and not Israelis, should also be allowed to take part. Israeli settlement should be frozen at once at its present level, and a process of dismantling some of the more provocative settlements in sensitive areas should be begun.

The Camp David accord at one point describes the proposed self-governing authority, in parenthesis, as an "administrative council". The Israelis argue from this that it should be a purely executive body, composed of thirteen functionaries each at the head of a department, without any legislative power. The Egyptians, by contrast, are proposing a legislative body of some eighty members. This would have the advantage both of giving the Palestinians some real power and of encouraging a significant number of them to get involved in political activity by standing for election. Since the Israelis persistently claim that the Palestine Liberation Organization does not really represent the population in the occupied territories, they ought to welcome this chance for an indigenous political leadership to emerge.

The United States should itself come out in support of a proposal along these lines, rather than trying to put equal pressure on Egypt and Israel to "close the gap" between their positions. That approach in the long run acts as a disincentive to concessions by either side, since whatever one concedes becomes simply the new line from which one will be urged to shift. In the present context Egypt is unlikely to yield to such pressure, since further Egyptian concessions on the Palestinian issue would achieve nothing for Egypt but would weaken her chances of recovering her good standing in the Arab world. By contrast serious American pressure on Israel is now essential if the last chance of making Camp David the cornerstone of an overall Middle East peace is not to be lost.

## DO NOT MUZZLE THE MESSENGER

Visitors to South Africa are often surprised by the apparent freedom of the press; cartoonists hold up government leaders to scorn and leading articles vigorously criticise points of policy. This freedom has been steadily diminished, but enough remains to be of value. If the recommendations just published by a committee under Mr Justice Marthinus Steyn are made law, even that will be put in doubt.

The Suppression of Communism Act of 1950 was the first of a series of laws giving the government draconian powers over journalists. These were used in the 1960s to kill radical and left-wing journals, most notably the weekly *New Age* (also the *Guardian* and other allies it assumed while struggling to avoid banning). Since then the fire has been turned on more liberal, non-revolutionary targets: the two most recent victims being Mr Donald Woods, former editor of the *Daily Dispatch* of East London, and Mr Percy Qoboza, former editor of the *World*, both demonstrably non-communist.

The main restrictions on the surviving press come from the law which prevents the words and opinions of

"banned" people being re-ported in all, and in the stern restrictions on reporting of matters concerned with prisons and defence. Affairs of vital concern to the people of South Africa have been ignored by the press because of legal constraints. While some journalists have stood up bravely, the main English-speaking press has been borne down over the years. The change of editorship of the *Rand Daily Mail*, for instance, have indicated a failure of managerial nerve.

The crucial proposal of the Steyn committee is that all journalists should be compulsorily registered on a central roll; a General Council for Journalists could strike off those it found guilty of "improper conduct" and thus prevent them from exercising their profession. The register would apparently extend to foreign journalists whose work was taken by South African newspapers. The council would consist of three government nominees and nine journalists, the means of choosing them giving a weight to pro-government journalists. The committee said it wished to improve the status of the journalist profession, bringing it into line with medicine and the law.

(Interestingly, a similar excuse was given recently in Sierra Leone for an early repressive measure.) The truth, however, is that journalists do not fit into a mould and cannot be lined up in drill formation. The Nigerian novelist (and brave journalist) Chinua Achebe recently wrote: "Most writers are inveterate critics of their fellow men and of society — a role imposed on them by their moral vision, their natural scepticism and individualism. . . . When [a writer] gets up to dance with his fellows he is apt to hear in his mind's ear the rhythms of a different drummer. In the words — frightening words — of Joyce Carey, 'he is doomed to be free'."

The Steyn restrictions would put journalists on a leash. More important, a closer confinement of the press must have a damaging effect on South African life. Even the most optimistic predictions for the country foresee difficult but unavoidable adjustments for white South Africans. For that they will need as much information as possible about what is happening, what people think and what options are available. How will they get it without a free press?

## Socialism and the social democrats

From the Leader of the Opposition Sir, I read some months ago the acknowledgement by Roy Jenkins that he had not been accustomed for years to use the word socialism. I read frequently, and most recently in your correspondence columns on Tuesday, that David Owen has removed from the latest edition of his book, *Face the Future*, all references to socialism to be found in the original. I read also that the Social Democrat Party has chosen to call its "think tank" the Tawney Society. Will the society at its early meetings devote its labours to the removal of the word socialism from the works of Professor Tawney? It would be a formidable task. And it would surely be more useful if these new thinkers did not seek, for their own purposes, to debase the name of Tawney.

Some of us can recall how proudly and passionately he pronounced the word socialism, and scorned those who did not understand its true origin, meaning and glory.

Yours fraternally,  
MICHAEL FOOT,  
Minister of Commons.  
February 3.

## Easier mortgages

From Mr John Stewart Sir, In discussing the new index-linked mortgages offered by the Building Trust (January 29), your Business Editor repeats an age-old mistake on encountering new ideas, a preoccupation with remote and hypothetical problems and misunderstandings that obscure understanding of the idea itself.

1. Building Trust mortgages will enable those whose income disqualifies them from a conventional building society or bank loan to buy their own home. To relinquish some of the equity is certainly a cost. But surely for many households in this position this cost will be far outweighed by the benefits of home ownership. 2. Homebuyers are not "potentially" giving away some 50 per cent of any capital gain realised on their home. First, it is not "given away" because in exchange for low monthly repayments now, borrowers pay a proportion of the capital gain later. Thus, deferred debt repayment enables a new market to be opened up. Second, the 50 per cent gain is based on the value of the loan, not the full price of the house. 3. Mortgages, especially for those on lower incomes, are long-term commitments. Static house prices have only ever been a short-term phenomenon. That in a few hypothetical cases lower income first-purchasers might buy and sell a house within one year in the present economic circumstances is more of the order of a crack in the pavement than a "potential pitfall". And besides, the trustees are empowered to consider individual cases of hardship, just as occurs with building society borrowers.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN STEWART,  
Housing Economist,  
The House-Builder's Federation,  
82 New Cavendish Street, W1.  
January 29.

## High flyers

From Mr Michael Geare Sir, The secretary of the British Microlight Aircraft Association is quoted in today's *Times* article (February 2) as comparing microlight pilots with Icarus. He is right in that Icarus did not create a uniquely savage, selfish and uncontrolled noise pollution. The sensible West Germans would supply Icarus with heat-resistant wax: they have banned noisy-pollutant microlights. Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL GEARE,  
The Thatched Cottage,  
Gagingwell,  
Enstone,  
Oxfordshire.  
February 2.

## A mature view

From Lady Sachs Sir, I note with alarm and despondency in your issue of January 29 that Channel 4 threatens to introduce a special programme for the elderly. Why? I admit (albeit reluctantly) to being 72, but I will not admit to being in need of any special treatment from the box, and I have always found that, with discrimination, the existing programmes supply everything that any sane adult could possibly require at any age.

I have no doubt that the programmes will be admirably selected and presented and that my vision of endless beautifully-read extracts from books which can be better enjoyed by private reading, cosy knitting patterns and 301 different ways to tart up the bedtime Oatmeal will be pitifully unfounded. But it does not alter the infuriating impression of being patronised and being incapable of interest in the ordinary programmes just because one happens to be over 60. It could be that the passage of time can sharpen critical faculties and widen interests and in any case why should we oldies be relegated to the reverse equivalent of *Listen With Mother*? Yours sincerely,  
MARGARET SACHS,  
Wandland East,  
Wadhurst,  
East Sussex.  
January 30.

## Ethics of human embryo banks

From Dr R. Snowden and Professor G. D. Mitchell

Sir, Recent publicity (report, January 28) surrounding the activities of Mr Patrick Steptoe and Dr Robert Edwards in freezing embryos for subsequent thawing suggests there is a need for a public debate into the topics of surrogate motherhood, artificial insemination and "test-tube" babies.

Despite the predictable cries from members of the medical profession directly involved that a moratorium on embryo freezing in order to permit public debate of the practice would be "ill informed" and "alarmist", it is gratifying to learn that the profession is attempting to provide "guidelines" in relation to the practice. However, these guidelines are to be produced by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists for their own members and will presumably not be mandatory.

Our objections to the way this matter is being dealt with are threefold.

Firstly, any enquiry should involve a much wider spectrum of society than merely the medical profession and presumably their legal advisers. Our own research into the social, psychological and moral issues surrounding these different forms of human reproduction indicates the need to go far beyond legal or medical considerations.

Secondly, any enquiry must not be confined to the minority cases of *in vitro* fertilization and embryo freezing, but must include the issues of surrogate motherhood and the more common practice of artificial insemination by semen donor (AID).

Thirdly, the mere production of "guidelines" which may give some legal protection to those responsible for providing surrogate motherhood, AID, *in vitro* fertilization and embryo-freezing services, is insufficient. What is needed is some form of licensing (e.g. sperm banks, etc) and registration of those providing these services.

At the present time there is no control whatsoever in this country in the establishment of sperm banks and the commercialisation of AID, surrogate motherhood and *in vitro* fertilization services. By definition, these are directed towards those who are particularly vulnerable in their desire to have a child almost at any price.

After discussions with those who suffer from infertility we have come to appreciate the depth of misery and the feelings of hopelessness by which couples who want a child but, for one reason or another, are denied one. The need for regulation is not in order to prevent this group of unfortunate people from receiving the help they need, but to ensure that such help is provided in a way that is compatible with the moral standards of our time and avoids the

dangers which accompany secrecy and the lack of regulation.

To take AID as an example, which is the most common of the procedures described, questions relating to the selection of those providing the service, the donor, the person providing the service and the rights of the child need urgent consideration. How are couples selected? How much are they charged? What effect does AID have on the family relationships? Who selects the donor? How are donors assessed? How often is a donor used? What are the rights of the child whose genetic background is likely to have been deliberately obscured?

It is an assumption that in the case of *in vitro* fertilization the ova and sperm from a married couple are being used and the fertilized ova are being replaced in the wife's body; however, this remains an assumption. Even in cases of surrogate motherhood and AID there is confusion between genetic and social parenthood. The creation of a new human being is a serious business and neither research scientists, the medical profession nor the legal profession are solely competent to provide guidelines for the rest of us.

The statement that frozen animal embryos have been successfully thawed out in goats, pigs, sheep and cows leads us to worry about the future reproductive practices of the human race. A recent report of a scientific meeting held in 1979 called to discuss the provision of AID services included a paper on the legal, professional and ethical aspects of the selection and treatment of stud bulls. Apparently, all the cows in this country could be serviced by just 30 such bulls.

At the same meeting one gynaecologist referring to human AID called for the establishment of donor panels of "top sires" whose spermatozoa could be distributed around the country for use by those wishing to provide an AID service. Yet another description in the same report was of a "masturbatorium" situated in Adelaide, South Australia, frequented by donors who provide their donation in conditions of some comfort including the availability of "girlie" magazines.

Had such scientific assistance been available in the 1930s the master race would doubtless have been more than a gleam in Hitler's eye. It is surely time we had a public enquiry into the whole business.

Yours sincerely,  
ROBERT SNOWDEN,  
G. DUNCAN MITCHELL,  
Directors,  
Institute of Population Studies,  
University of Exeter,  
Hoopers House,  
101 Pennsylvania Road,  
Exeter,  
February 1.

## HMS Endurance

From Lord Shackleton and others Sir, Your columns have already carried correspondence (October 26, etc.) regarding the retention in service of HMS *Endurance*, the Royal Navy's only vessel capable of carrying the White Ensign into the south Atlantic and ice-filled Antarctic seas, thus maintaining, both symbolically and practically, Britain's traditional position in this potentially very important land and sea area.

Since the intention to pay off HMS *Endurance* at the end of the current southern summer season became known, considerable public and parliamentary concern has been expressed. We the undersigned, who all have personal experience or knowledge of the present and developing situation in the area, share their anxieties.

While we appreciate the problems facing the Royal Navy in meeting essential defence commitments in a climate of economy, the decision to axe HMS *Endurance* is tantamount to the withdrawal of the Royal Navy from the hazardous waters where other naval vessels can undertake all her various tasks. The saving is likely to be greatly outweighed by the consequences to Britain's future interests in what is expected to become a vital resource area.

With 21 nations from all quarters of the world now moving fast to establish or enlarge an Antarctic presence, in many cases at an expense considerable greater than this country seems willing to envisage.

## European Court powers

From Mr Alan R. Tyrrell, QC, MEP for London East (Conservative)

Sir, Mr Michael Bailly's fear (feature, February 1) that even if Lord Bethell's air fares case in the European Court of Justice, "little or nothing will happen", is ill-founded.

Although there is no machinery in the court for penalizing a defaulting member state, none has ever yet been necessary. In 23 years, there has been only one occasion when a member state (France) has through its government, not its court, stated that it would not accept a decision of the "sheepmen" case in 1980. However, there was a political agreement to set up a sheepmen regime, so the issue was never tested.

Member states have often delayed implementation of a decision, the worst instance being the four-year delay in the art tax case by Italy in 1972. But delay is different from denial, which would challenge the foundations of the Treaty of Rome. The governments of member states are subordinate to their national law, which in each case

age, this is no time for Britain to pull back or be thought to be moving along a path of retreat. Besides the ship's special facilities, the withdrawal of HMS *Endurance* will be seen as a step in this direction. Thus Britain's influence will be diminished at a time when it will be greatly needed in the determination of conservation measures and the regulation of exploitation, as the successful Antarctic Treaty comes up for review, a treaty which Britain played a leading part in instituting.

In anticipation of that review, and of the future beyond it, national self-interests will inevitably come to the fore. No country will then want to lose out on the prospects; least of all should Britain. It seems to us vital that the White Ensign should continue to fly regularly in the south-west Atlantic and the Antarctic Ocean, for its implication of national interest goes far beyond that expressed by the presence of research ships. This would not only maintain general British interests in the area, but would also provide moral support for the totally British population of the Falkland Islands.

Yours faithfully,  
SHACKLETON,  
PETER SCOTT,  
V. E. FUCHS,  
E. G. IRVING,  
MORIS,  
ERIC OGDEN,  
J. R. W. PARKER,  
MICHAEL SHERSBY,  
T. WOODFIELD,  
Royal Geographical Society,  
Kensington Gore, SW7.  
January 28.

recognizes the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice. So a citizen damaged by the refusal of the government of a member state to implement the court's decision could sue it in its own national court, which would enforce the law as declared by the ECJ using national procedures. This could have been done in the "sheepmen" case.

In the Bethell case, if the court holds that article 85 of the treaty and the competition regulations made thereunder apply to airlines, then the Commission itself could fine offending airlines. Fines in the order of half a million pounds are not uncommon. It would be a pity if the idea mistakenly gained credence that member states were above European Community law. In fact, the ECJ is the first truly international court which can justly claim that its decisions are complied with. In its historical perspective, the achievement is remarkable. Let it not be belittled.

Yours faithfully,  
A. R. TYRRELL,  
15 Willfield Way,  
Hamstead Garden Suburb, NW11.  
February 1.

## Civilian job cuts in Defence

From the Permanent Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Defence

Sir, May we make one factual comment on your leader "Who guard the Guards?" of February 3? You state that since Mrs Thatcher took office the number of jobs in "public administration and defence" has fallen by only 2½ per cent. So far as defence is concerned, the facts are that since Mrs Thatcher took office the number of civilian jobs has fallen by 26,000 — 10½ per cent compared with the 8 per cent fall in the economy as a whole which you quote in your leader. Over the same period, the number of military jobs has increased by 18,250 (5.6 per cent).

As your readers well know, we intend to reduce the number of civilian jobs by a further 21,500 to 200,000 between now and April 1, 1984, which will take the overall rundown to 19 per cent since the Government took office.

Overall, since 1960 the number of United Kingdom civilian jobs in the Ministry of Defence has fallen by 100,000 (30 per cent). Over broadly the same period (since 1960) the number of United Kingdom military jobs has fallen by 90,000 (21 per cent).

These are recorded facts. We would not wish to draw any conclusions.

Yours sincerely,  
FRANK COOPER,  
Ministry of Defence,  
Main Building,  
Whitehall, SW1.  
February 3.

From Dr M. P. Coleman Sir, When Mr Reagan stops food shipments to Poland and spends \$30m on weapons for the Government of El Salvador, one has to admire his pragmatism. In the science of butchering their compatriots, the soldiers in El Salvador are streets ahead of the Poles.

Mrs Thatcher now asks an impossible to stage a globally televised defence of freedom for the people of El Salvador?

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL COLEMAN,  
Epidemiology Department,  
St Mary's Hospital Medical School,  
University of London, W2.  
February 2.

## Women in orders

From the Right Reverend Gilbert Baker Sir, In her article of January 25, Caroline Moorehead refers to the Rev Elizabeth Canham as the first British woman to become an Anglican priest.

This is not so, for the Rev Joyce Bennett, OBE, who is British, was ordained by me in St John's Cathedral, Hongkong, together with another Chinese lady and two Chinese men, on Sunday, November 28, 1971.

This action followed the decision of the diocesan synod, which is not under the jurisdiction of Canterbury, and the approval of the Anglican Consultative Council.

Joyce Bennett has had a distinguished and fruitful ministry. Hongkong is a diocesan synod, pastor, and also as an appointed member of the legislative council. I hope that when she returns to her native land she will eventually be given the courtesy of a licence to officiate as a priest in the Church of England, just as I have graciously been given such permission since retiring from the bishopric of Hongkong to settle in this country.

Yours sincerely,  
GILBERT BAKER,  
Orchard End,  
Nower Road,  
Dorking,  
Surrey.  
January 26.

## Love locked out

From the General Secretary of the National and Local Government Officers' Association

Sir, I was sorry to read (feature, January 30) that the dispute by registration officers spoiled Mr David Hewson's wedding plans. Large numbers of people have suffered similar problems. However registration officers are not a traditionally militant group of workers and have been pushed into industrial action by the local authorities' employers. The employers have rejected out of hand a very modest regrading claim and have been most derogatory about this extremely conscientious group of staff.

Mr Hewson makes the suggestion that registration officers should go on strike to force a settlement. This shows a misunderstanding of the status of registration officers who are outside the protection of employment law and who would be guilty of criminal offences if they were to take strike action. The penalty would be fines and, possibly, imprisonment. Nalga would be more than irresponsible to ask its members to take criminal action.

Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY DRAIN,  
1 Mableton Place,  
WC1.  
February 3.

## Popish plot?

From Mr D. R. Woodman Sir, Perhaps 1982 has already thrown up a useful new verb — "to aslef", meaning to be willing to wound but afraid (really) to strike.

Yours faithfully,  
DOUGLAS WOODMAN,  
26 Butser Walk,  
Petersfield,  
Hampshire.  
February 2.

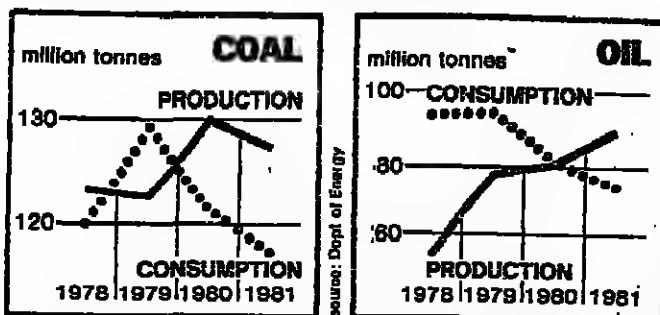






## BUSINESS NEWS

## N Sea oil surplus



The United Kingdom produced 20 per cent more oil last year than it consumed according to the Department of Energy. While output increased from 80.4 million to 89.3 million tonnes, oil demand slumped by 7.7 per cent from 80.8 million to 75.5 million tonnes. Coal output also fell by 1.7 per cent from 130.1 million tonnes to 127.6 million tonnes. But demand dropped to 120.9 million tonnes from 122.7 million tonnes, leaving a 10 million tonne surplus.

## Unilever's office sale

Unilever hopes to raise £28m of the £37m it is paying for the renovation and extension of Unilever House by the sale of three interlinked City office buildings near Blackfriars Bridge near London. Two institutions are negotiating with Unilever — one for Kildare House with a £11m price for the freehold and a second for all three properties.

## New docks directors

The loss-making Mersey Docks and Harbour Company, continuing its streamlining policy to achieve financial stability by the end of this year, yesterday announced the appointment of three new directors, all from within the Port of Liverpool. Director of the stevedoring operation is Mr Frank Major; personnel director is Mr Bernard Cliff; and Mr Trevor Furlong is to take up the key post of port services director.

## Garrard switches to Amazon

Record turntables bearing the famous British name of Garrard will not be made in this country after April. Graduate Electronics, the Brazilian company which bought Garrard from Plessey in 1979, is to close down its Swindon factory, with the loss of 180 jobs, and transfer production to the parent plant at Manaus in the Amazon jungle. A Garrard spokesman said sales were too low to justify continued manufacturing in Britain.

## £79,000 payout

Tate & Lyle's annual report reveals a £79,000 compensation has been paid to Mr Colin Lyle, who stepped down as executive director last year. He retired early as part of management changes but remains a non-executive director.

Higher grants and more relief to encourage housebuilding were urged on the Chancellor of the Exchequer yesterday by building industry leaders.

## MARKET SUMMARY

## All eyes on interest rates

## LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 578.0 up 7.0  
FT 100 64.79 up 0.19  
FT All Share 330.12 up 4.25  
Bargains 21,168

The interest rates war currently taking place across the Atlantic remained the dominant factor yesterday. The market experienced a renewed surge of confidence in the wake of the Bank of England's related decision to raise the prime rate and Mr Donald Regan's confirmation that the latest hiccup in US economic policy would be short lived.

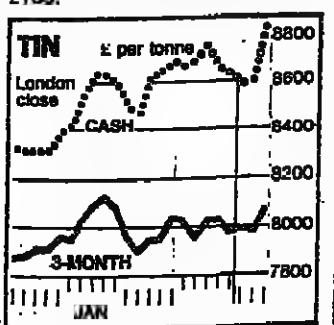
As a result the pound perked up with gains recovering from a hesitant start to close with gains of up to 1.1%. At the shorter end, the pace was a little slower with rises restricted to 0.4%. Equities followed suit with the FT index rising 7.0 to 578.0, having been 5.8 at 3pm.

Many of the blue chips came in for special attention with the jobbers, short of sellers, forced to push prices sharply higher. Barclays Bank was an early feature on fears of a rights issue that materialized as a £100m loan stock paying 16 per cent over 20 years which added 10p to the price at 488p.

Great Northern Investment Trust started 6p to 160p amid rumours that Barclays was about to pounce. A denial from the company saw the price slip to close only 2p higher at 158p. However, the rumour that one of the banks might move to bid for a trust remained strong last night. A large seller of Allied Lyons yesterday struggled to dispose of 850,000 shares at 80p. The price closed 2 1/2p higher at 79 1/2p.

## COMMODITIES

On the first day of the new £120 premium limit, cash tin prices rose £235 to a record £8,835 a tonne. Dealers said that a buyer of the last seven months, who has accumulated substantial tin stocks, refrained from offering tin for immediate delivery and so the price was squeezed. Three-month tin closed at £8,077, up £105.



Most of the difference between prices for immediate and three-month delivery is concentrated in the last week of February when the contracts of speculators who went short in November fall due. There is now concern that delayed tin shipments will leave the market short of physical tin at the end of the month.

## TODAY

Public sector borrowing requirement and details of local authority borrowing for fourth quarter. Farm and steel exports talks, Washington.

## OTHER EXCHANGES

Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,384.15 down 6.0

Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 7,850.94 up 32.64

## CURRENCIES

The dollar firmed yesterday afternoon, after showing some early weakness. It was helped by a slightly higher Federal Fund rate.

## LONDON CLOSE

STERLING

\$1.8600 down 35 points

Index 91.8 down 0.1

DM 4.3875

Fr F 11.1700

Yen 438.50

DOLLAR

Index 111.4 up 0.3

DM 2.3570 up 70pts

GOLD

\$378.25 down \$2.25

## MONEY MARKETS

The atmosphere was more relaxed with money flows roughly in balance. The Bank bought £23m of bills at unchanged rates.

Domestic rates:

Base rates 14%

3-month interbank 14%-14 1/2%

Euro-currency rates:

3 month dollar 15%-15 1/2%

3 month DM 10%-10 1/2%

3 month Fr F 15%-15 1/2%

## Barclays issues £100m bond for expansion

By Peter Wilson Smith, Banking Correspondent

Barclays Bank is raising £100m with the largest issue ever on the United Kingdom bond market by a private sector borrower.

Barclays, the biggest of the four United Kingdom clearing banks and the most profitable bank in the world, will use the £100m to finance expansion. It is raising the money from city institutions through a placing of 15 per cent unsecured loan stock 2002/2007 at par.

The issue is the first sizeable corporate bond from a United Kingdom borrower since the early seventies.

The corporate bond market used to be an important source of long-term finance for companies in the United Kingdom but it dried up in the early 1970s as interest rates rose and companies became reluctant to commit themselves to paying high rates of interest on long-term money. They have since relied much more on bank borrowings.

Some market analysts were surprised that Barclays was prepared to pay such a high price to borrow money. They do not expect a flood of other companies to follow Barclays.

The issue was arranged by Barclays Merchant Bank and the stock brokers to the issue are Pender & Boyle and Casanova & Co.

Barclays said that the money was not earmarked for any particular purpose but would strengthen its capital base so it could continue to grow. It would also further diversify its sources of capital. Last year it raised £100m in the United States by issuing capital notes.

Mr Frank Dolling, group vice-chairman, said: "We see the need to keep our capital base strong. There was a very considerable balance sheet growth in 1981 and we expect to see growth in 1982. The issue of loan stock is partly paid with £25 due on

February 9 and the balance by April 30.

Barclays considered other alternatives, including a rights issue, but decided against that because of the discount its shares trade on compared with net asset value. Shares in Barclays rose 10p to 468p yesterday.

Mr Dolling said that the fact the bank was raising long-term money at 16 per cent did not imply anything about what it thought might happen to interest rates.

Interest on the loan stock is payable by equal half-yearly instalments on May 15 and November 15 in each year, except that the first payment will be made on November 15, 1982 and will amount to £9.50 (less income tax) per £100 nominal of stock.

The last big sterling corporate bond issue came from Inco, the leading Canadian nickel company, which raised £25m in 1981.



Roger Leek, Kodak's marketing director with the new compact camera and film

## Kodak unveils disc-film camera

Kodak yesterday unveiled a micro-processor controlled camera whose film is contained on a rotating disc and which the company believes is the most significant advance in amateur photography in the past 20 years.

The camera, launched after nine years' research, will be on sale in the United States in May and in Britain and Europe by Autumn.

Fifteen exposures are contained on a thin, flat disc which rotates automatically as each frame is used. The completed disc is contained in a cartridge.

The camera, expected to sell at about £35, is powered by lithium cells which will contain more energy.

## Thatcher rules out reflationary Budget

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The Prime Minister gave a clear indication to employers' and union leaders yesterday that next month's Budget would not contain large reflationary measures to stimulate the economy.

At a meeting of the National Economic Development Council, Mrs Thatcher stressed the Government's desire to see only a "gentle" take-off in the economy.

Her comments followed a submission from the TUC delegation led by Mr Len Murray, the general secretary, that because of lack of Government support for industry, economic upturn could create severe bottlenecks in sectors which had run down their capacity.

The discussion, which centred on the effects to Britain of inward and outward business investment, came after contrasting economic proposals this week from the TUC and the Confederation of British Industry.

The employers' budget Sir Geoffrey Howe's plan to include a £1,800m package of measures aimed particularly at increasing competitiveness and reducing business costs. The unions are seeking the adoption of a reflationary measures costing £8,300m and based on a new tripartite national economic assessment.

Yesterday's NEDC meeting was, surprisingly low key,

with the TUC in particular not taking the opportunity of Mrs Thatcher's presence to complain about the Government's overall policies or the high level of unemployment.

Mr Murray and his colleagues contented themselves with presenting a paper in which they pointed out the dangers to the country of a big rise in United Kingdom portfolio investments abroad which has occurred since the abolition of exchange controls.

These had risen from £90m in 1979 to £2,920m in the first 9 months of last year, said the TUC, while inward portfolio investments fell by 50 per cent in 1980.

The TUC said financial institutions had been switched away from purchase of United Kingdom equities.

Sir Geoffrey, who disagreed with the TUC that a foreign investment review agency was needed, said that most direct investment overseas had been little affected by the ending of exchange controls.

The net effect of the increase in outward portfolio investments had been to keep down the rise in the sterling exchange rate in 1980-81 with a marginal upward impact on interest rates.

At the same time, the nation was building up important overseas earnings.

## Imports problems lead to growing pressure for trade protectionism

## Buy British, Biffen tells Japan

From Peter Hazelhurst, Tokyo, Feb 3

Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, declared today that serious demand for some form of protectionism might soon grow in the United Kingdom if Japan does not take steps to reduce its lop-sided trade surplus within the next year.

The British minister, who is visiting Tokyo for the first time, went on to suggest that the Japanese government could ease trade frictions in the area of public purchases by importing defence and aerospace equipment from Britain.

He also implied that the Western trading partners do not believe the latest Japanese measures to liberalize import procedures and reduce tariffs on 1,532 items will help reduce Tokyo's growing trade surplus.

"We will have to see if it works. The Japanese government thinks it is important but I have not met anyone who thinks that it will have an impact," Mr Biffen declared.

He warned the Japanese government that there could be serious consequences if the current trend in trade is not rectified within a year.

Mr Biffen admitted, however, that "nothing is going to be done which will have a quick effect on the deficit. But the Japanese government could make a token symbol to ease the friction. I



Mr Biffen: a warning of "serious consequences"

am thinking of the field of public purchases from the British aerospace industry. The sale of a BA-146 would have a substantial effect," he pointed out.

He admitted he had no indications that the Japanese would make any substantial purchases from the British Aerospace industry in the near future. "But I found a sharp awareness during every meeting that the trade gap is causing international anxieties, and there is a need to reduce it," he said.

During his two-day visit, when he met government and business leaders, the Trade Secretary sought assurances that Japan would continue to curb the flow of sensitive export items, such as cars. "My observations were received politely, but there was no further discussion beyond the normal courtesies," he said.

## US steel men lobby for quotas

From Bailey Morris, Washington, Jan 3

United States steelmakers are increasingly pressing the Reagan Administration to negotiate country-by-country quotas on steel imports from Europe to restrict supplies from abroad.

A growing number of big United States steel company executives favour the imposition of quotas as the best way to settle the massive number of anti-dumping and countervailing duty cases filed against producers in eight European countries.

The steel executives, confident of their ability to win a favourable ruling from the United States International Trade Commission, expect the Administration to press the Administration for a settlement before the ITC's final ruling.

This is the reason why American companies have developed a fallback position on a proposed settlement heavily weighted toward restrictive quotas, it is understood.

Lawyers representing United States producers have seized upon a provision of the law governing the use of subsidies which contains an amelioration clause which they claim, allows the imposition of quantitative restraints.

Some companies have already informed the Administration they will not accept a return to the old trigger

price mechanism used to control the flow of steel into America by setting a minimum, allowable price on imports.

They claimed they were forced to file more than 100 complaints alleging injury because European companies ignored promises to abide by the trigger price and began flooding the United States market with low-priced, subsidized steel.

This is why neither the trigger price mechanism nor another form of price assurance from the European Community is acceptable to American producers in settlement of the cases, congressional sources said. "They want something harder," a lawyer for a large company said. He went on that the past record of steel cases before the ITC and the Commerce Department late last year and in 1980 supports the industry's view that it is likely to receive favourable rulings.

If this happens, European imports might be priced out of the United States market because of the imposition of additional punitive duties ranging from \$50 a ton to \$300 a ton. The impact on the economies of some countries could be disastrous.

To prevent this, the Administration is attempting to develop a fallback position on a steel settlement with the European Community, which considers the current flood of cases as nothing less than harassment.

Officials from both sides are expected to discuss steel and the settlement proposals during the two days of high-level trade talks which begin in Washington on Monday.

## Export claims jump to £288m

## ECGD accounts questioned

By Peter Wilson-Smith

The troubled Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) may have its accounts qualified by the Exchequer and Audit Department which examines the accounts of all Government bodies.

The ECGD has been in difficulty for some time because of the record level of claims it has been having to pay out as a result of the recession and political upheavals in various parts of the world.

Mr Kenneth Taylor, secretary of ECGD, gave a warning in December that the department might not be able to continue insuring British exports without Government subsidy.

Announcing trading results for 1980-81 he said: "ECGD's ability to continue to fulfil its two duties, of giving exporters the service they need without making a call on taxpayers' money, now hangs in very fine balance."

The possibility of the ECGD's accounts being qualified is disclosed in *Accountancy* Age which quotes a spokesman for the Exchequer and Audit Department as saying that it could almost certainly qualify the accounts on two or three aspects and would be submitting an extensive report to parliament.

A spokesman for Exchequer and Audit Department to

decide if they qualify the accounts.

It is thought that the audit department's reservations could relate to changes in the presentation of the ECGD accounts. In the last financial year to March 31, 1981, ECGD had to pay out claims of £288m—a 9 per cent rise on the previous year's record level. Of this, £183m was due to political causes, notably in Iran where the department has paid out about £160m since the fall of the Shah and where there are further claims still outstanding.

Poland, where ECGD, has £850m at risk, mostly for the financing of large projects, did not make any impact on the 1980-81 results but claims have come in since then. In total ECGD has paid out nearly £800m over the last four years and this has seriously depleted the department's cash reserves.

Because of the difficulties in ensuring an adequate level of reserves in line with the targets set for the ECGD, the department is going on with the Treasury to try and arrive at more satisfactory targets.

One of the ECGD's problems is that a large part of its reserves takes the form of blocked loans which are due from overseas. Its actual cash provisions available to meet claims stands at about £450m.

## Orders overwhelm TV computer firm

By Bill Johnstone

A company manufacturing personal computers especially for a BBC TV educational series has been overwhelmed by orders. It already has a backlog of 12,000 orders and is answering more than 1,000 enquiries a day.

The company, Acorn Computers, of Cambridge, is expecting an even greater demand when the series, *The Computer Programme*, is repeated for general viewers next month.

This is despite the fact that Acorn raised the price of its microcomputer by more than £65 two days ago. There are two versions, made to BBC specifications, one now costing £299 and the other, with more features, costing £100 more.

The company said yesterday that the increase was due partly to over optimistic pricing when the computers were costed six months ago and partly to the cost of answering enquiries by post.

Mr Christopher Curry, the managing director, said: "The machine was developed very rapidly and only now are we approaching full volume production. The original pricing structure has proved to be too optimistic, given the demand for particularly rigorous procedures and various increases in component costs."

The programme began

transmissions for schools and colleges on January 11. It is intended to give non-specialist an appreciation of microcomputers.

The ten programmes, twenty five minutes long, will be broadcast on Sunday mornings from February 14 and on Monday evenings from March 22.

The project has had its share of problems. The BBC has been severely criticized for underestimating response to the series and for launching it before a proper supply of computers was available.

Acorn is confident that the component problems which have held up production of the machines have been overcome. According to Acorn the custom chips made for the company presented teething problems which contributed to the original production targets slipping.

More than 4,000 of the computers have been manufactured and dispatched. They were made for Acorn by Cletrone in South Wales and ICL will begin producing the machine within several days. By March, the output from both factories should total about 5,000 a month.

The outstanding orders are then expected to be cleared. The 12,000 customers who have already placed orders will not be charged the increase.

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## BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

## PEOPLE

## Can't hear you, Mr Poll

I scorn the gossip based on malice but what of the chatter prompted by caring? No fewer than 650 shareholders in Tring Hall Securities, which is run by Dennis Poll, aged 41, are among the 35 institutions such as merchant banks and our big jobbing firms, who between them have already put up £3.8m through a public offering and subsequent cash calls.

City chat has it that Tring has spent its way through this money, and would like some more. Tring has done more than anyone else to make a go of the unlisted securities set up by the stock exchange as a nursery for small companies which cannot fulfil normal listing requirements. There is also dismay that newcomers have wet their nappies by falling down on their prospectus forecasts.

Tring has not been immune. I wish I could bring you word from young Mr Poll or his colleagues but alas! They are, day after day, in meetings. Still, I am comforted that Valia Pollen, their PR form, also have trouble in vaulting Tring's newly-built walls. Perhaps a lunch with all concerned will clear the air and I for one wish Tring a prosperous 1982.

## USA's latest lunch counter

Are you taking your lunch to work today? If so, the contents are of great interest to David Lyon, founder of the "Brown Bag Institute" in the United States.

He contends that there are about 80 million Americans who do so. "And my institute will study the habits and idiosyncrasies of these eaters and merchandise the results to manufacturers who make lunch boxes and the things that go in them," he said.

He is offering the research service at £11,000 a year, based on quarterly interviews with 1,000 "lunch makers and lunch eaters."

Three companies who have signed up are Nabisco's Planters division, which makes crisps and nuts; ITT Continental Baking, manufacturers of cupcakes and bread; and King-Seely Therma Company, which makes the lunch boxes and thermos jugs.

"Brown baggers," he says, "brown bag because of the need to economise, because they don't like the food sold at work and also want to save time."



"Here's to an economy much blacker than it's painted"

## Don't call us we'll call you

Anxious to stamp out tax evasion which is officially estimated to be robbing the state coffers of the equivalent of £1,500,000 a year, Greece's new finance minister, Manolis Drettakis, set up a special service in his ministry this week.

Invited citizens to call telephone 322 7002 or 322 5466 and denounce tax dodgers. Forty-eight hours and 200 telephone calls later, Mr Drettakis was forced to announce that anonymous calls would no longer be accepted. Sixty calls, he said, were anonymous and therefore were disregarded.

Another 60 calls concerned insignificant cases, while 60 more denunciations were taken seriously and are being investigated. The minister said one concerned an Athens surgeon who had charged £290 for an operation, but refused to give a receipt.

Ross Davies

## NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr R. T. S. Russell, assistant managing director of Hepworth (Retail), has been appointed managing director. He succeeds Mr Alex Pirie and Mr William Beasley, joint managing directors, who have retired.

Mr J. D. Anderson is to be senior assistant director, investment department, of British Linen Bank. Mr J. D. McAlinich will be senior assistant director, banking and commercial lendings; Mr Eric F. Sanderson will be assistant director, corporate finance department; and Mr Ian Kirkpatrick will be assistant director, business development department.

Mr J. P. W. Symons and Mr R. G. S. Forrester have been elected to the board of Gillette Industries, and Mr C. Deering and Mr R. Derwent have been elected to the board of Gillette UK.

## The mystery tin buyers who challenged the Metal Exchange



Tin dealers in action at the London Metal Exchange

Late last Tuesday morning, the committee of the London Metal Exchange threw its considerable prestige behind proposals to avert possible panic in the London tin market. But in so doing, the committee was risking a good deal more. At stake are relations between tin producers and consumers, the authority of the LME to run a fair and open market in which dealers obey the rules, and even the jealously-guarded principle of self-regulation.

The main move made by the committee is to impose a limit of £120 a tonne on the daily backwarranty in tin. A backwarranty — part of the arcane language of commodity trading — occurs when the cash price of a commodity is higher than forward prices. The latter are normally higher than cash or spot prices because of storage, insurance, financing and other costs.

Backwarranties of any size or duration are, therefore, unusual — although not unknown. But since the end of November, the London tin market has been subject to a massive and sustained backwarranty created by a mysterious buyer or group of buyers who have pushed the price to about £2,000 a tonne above what traders considered is justified in the present market.

The buying is widely believed to have been coordinated by three leading tin producers — Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand — with the first well to the fore. They are angry about what they regard as unreasonable resistance by consumer members of the International Tin Agreement; aggrieved at the United States refusal to join the Sixth Agreement and its decision to sell General Services Administration tin surplus; and anxious about the implications of falling tin prices for domestic employment.

These countries seem to have embarked on one of the most elaborate and expensive price-support operations the commodity markets have seen.

The buying began last July. At first the purchasers, through Marc Rich, a New York commodity firm registered in Switzerland, and using MacLaine

Watson, a ring-dialing member of the LME, bought forward contracts. Then in November they changed tactics. In a dramatic three days, they started buying all the cash tin that anyone would sell. This opened the backwarranty: spot prices are currently about £8,500 a tonne, while the three months price is around £7,900 a tonne.

Up to this point, the LME — although a bit mystified by what was going on — did not intervene. Senior committee members repeatedly stressed that the buyers had broken no rules, they had not created a corner, and that it was a fundamental principle that the market should be as free from interference as possible. Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia are reported to have discussed setting up a tin producers' cartel, but that of course is outside the LME's remit.

What then has apparently caused the LME committee, always a conservative body, to change its mind? The answer is that as December gave way to January, the committee became aware of traders who had some short positions in tin.

Confidence was needed. Dealers were growing increasingly nervous as rumours circulated of the huge losses to which some speculators were liable. The pressure mounted. Huge quantities of tin — at least 50,000 tonnes — piled up in warehouses as the buyers bought everything offered. Despite spending perhaps £30m on the operation, they showed no sign of stopping. Industrial consumers of tin in America

complained that metal was being shipped across the Atlantic to London, where it commanded a higher price. LME tin stocks rose to almost 18,000 tonnes by the end of last week but by all accounts, warehouses in Britain and northern Europe not registered with the LME are bulging with much more tin.

In fact, it was the availability of tin which precipitated the crisis and prompted the LME to step in. Without tin to deliver, the shorts were faced with not just a loss but an outright default. As luck would have it, two shiploads of tin have been delayed. The committee feared that in the prevailing atmosphere, and without enough tin, there might be a scramble for physical tin which would widen the backwarranty still further and make the position of the shorts worse.

It was not an easy decision, however. In public and private, LME officials were adamant that they would not help the shorts. But in the event, bigger things were at stake. Nobody could ignore the real risk that a combination of defaults, commercial distress, and continued unprofitable buying by speculators would damage the reputation of the

LME. Some traders have gone so far as to say that manufacturing users of the market might desert it for good.

The committee had, therefore, to choose between the evils of setting limits and of inaction. Mr Philip Smith, chairman of the LME board, is confident that the £120 ceiling and the pressure on members to keep the peace will do the trick.

"I have a bet that the backwarranty will be less than £120 on the day," he said.

According to the new "understanding", the maximum premium over the forward price which can be demanded by a seller of tin for delivery the next day is £120. This should reduce the losses faced by the shorts. But much depends on whether those buying tin will accept the LME committee's authority. Last night, spot tin soared £215 a tonne to a record £8,835 a tonne as the buyers refrained from offering metal for immediate delivery.

Michael Prest

## Where Capital meets Labour

However much Mrs Thatcher may fulminate against consensus politics being the last refuge of the unprincipled, there persists the notion that if only men and women of goodwill sat down together to discuss our problems sensibly, the world might be a better place.

With moderate Tories now allying frequently to Disraeli and "Old Labour" and with the rise of the Social Democrats, it is not surprising that proposals for some kind of economic forum are being taken out of policy cupboards and dusted down for use. Indeed one of Mrs Thatcher's ministers, Mr Norman St John-Stevens, recently suggested such a body.

The idea has, in fact, been around for some time; ever since we took a look at some of our European neighbours and realised that they seemed to be managing their economies — in particular wage inflation — rather better than we were.

The notion of a social partnership between government, unions and employers, institutionally enshrined in Austria, Germany, and Scandinavia, seemed to offer an escape from Britain's endemic and destructive war between capital and labour.

Mutual distrust between British workers and their employers had led to unsupportable wage inflation, a squeeze on profits and hence reluctance to abandon restrictive labour practices and accept new technology held back productivity growth. Unions, on the other hand, could reasonably argue that they could not allow their members' jobs to be lost if the Government was unwilling to pursue policies which

Yesterday the Prime Minister made one of her rare appearances at the tripartite monthly meeting of the National Economic Development Council. The pressure is mounting on her to arrive at consensus policies. Here other countries' economic forums are analyzed.

## PERSPECTIVE: ECONOMIC CONSENSUS

By Francis Williams

would lead to new jobs being created elsewhere. And the unions were not prepared to hold back on pay claims unless they were sure this would ultimately benefit their members and not rich shareholders.

Proponents of an economic forum, bringing together the Government and both sides of industry, believe that a better understanding of how the economy works will lead to greater consensus over what should be done, better decisions by the parties involved and so greater economic prosperity. Only three years ago, the consensus on the need for consensus appeared to be overwhelming. In the space of a few months, the Confederation of British Industry's 12 "moderate" members of the TUC General Council, a joint statement from the then Labour Government and the TUC, and the Manifesto Group of right-wing Labour MPs all put forward proposals for some kind of forum or "national economic assessment". A forum was also suggested in the Conservative's economic policy statement of October 1977, *The Right Approach to the Economy*.

But Mrs Thatcher's dislike of consensus politics, and the Government's resolution to stick to hardline monetarist economic policies and sweeping union reform, has put constructive dialogue with the unions at least out of the question.

Nevertheless the CBI again proposed a forum in its discussion paper "The will to

win" last year, the TUC-Labour Party liaison committee is committed to a "national economic assessment", and the Social Democrats are moving hesitantly in the same direction. A



number of SDP MPs are ex-Manifesto Group members, and a leading light of the party's economic policy group, Professor James Meade, came out in favour of a forum in his important book on wage fixing. The basic idea is for a tripartite grouping which would come together at least

once a year to discuss economic policies and prospects, notably for the coming pay round. The forum would, for instance, have before it assessments of the impact of different rates of pay increases on output, employment, inflation and living standards in the light of government monetary and fiscal policies. Not unnaturally the unions especially want to be able to discuss and influence government policy as well, including matters concerning industrial strategy and income distribution.

The forum might be based on the National Economic Development Council, whose members are drawn from government, both sides of industry and other organizations including the National Consumer Council, which stages (sometimes intemperate) discussions on economic policy issues two or three times a year. Or it might be set up as a new body.

The big divide is between those who see the forum as having a purely educational function — as does the CBI — and those who think its main purpose should be to come up with some sort of pay norm or guideline.

Either way, the British system, unusual in Europe, of voluntary and decentralised pay bargaining is likely to make it extremely difficult for decisions, agreements, or just greater understanding by those on the forum, to filter through to pay deals.

In addition, of course, there is far more agreement than here among European "social partners" about economic management and objectives.

But in recent years, especially following the oil price shocks and the general slowdown of economic growth in the West, governments have found themselves in frequent conflict with the unions over inflationary pay deals, despite bribes of tax concessions, subsidies and even, in Sweden, a price freeze.

The idea of a forum is also open to criticism that it is anti-democratic and a step on the road to corporate state, with cosy deals sewn up between non-elected representatives who are not accountable to Parliament. Others would argue that, on the contrary, a forum might place constraints on the unbridled powers that the unions, say, already enjoy. But there is no doubt that the experience of the social contract between the Labour Government and the unions between 1974 and 1979, in which the unions extracted legal as well as economic concessions as the price for pay restraint, made many democrats deeply uneasy.

But perhaps the most fundamental question that forum advocates must answer is: can institutions themselves create consensus or can they only build upon it?

In particular, understanding will not lead to consensus if the Government is pursuing policies which are not acceptable to the other social partners. All the parties have to agree on the cure as well as the diagnosis.

Of one thing we can be sure: none of this will put off those in whom the beacon of sweet reason continues to beckon out of the inchoate darkness of Britain's industrial relations.

## Business Editor

## The German tightrope

If the possibility of American interest rates remaining high through the spring is worrying the British Government, then it is no less of a worry for the West Germans. That is even more the case after yesterday's news of a further sharp rise in the country's unemployment figures.

When the Bundesbank cut the special Lombard rate in January, it may well have taken the view that both American interest rates and the dollar were due to fall during the coming months. Probably it still believes that, for all the signs at this stage are that none of the major European central banks are yet ready to be panicked by the latest American developments.

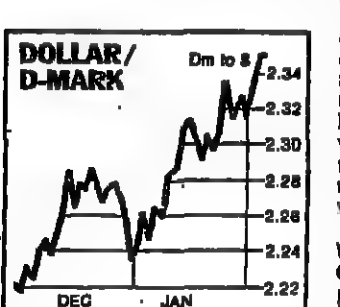
Let us hope it is right. The Germans economy is as much in need as any other of a boost from lower interest rates. Domestic activity is stumbling and, the coalition government now looks set to open the fiscal regulator more than it intended.

Clearly, though, even the proposed fiscal expansion is going to be of only limited impact so long as real interest rates remain at 5 per cent plus. Yet the feeling that the Germans can go it alone regardless of what happens in the States lacks credibility, in spite of the prospect of a further strong improvement in the current account this year (perhaps with the total elimination of last year's DM17,500m deficit in prospect).

The fact of the matter is that with American real interest rates closer to 7 per cent, the markets are already pushing the D-Mark lower. That is a process that may not go all that much further as markets increasingly look for something to happen to close the interest rate differential.

Optimists must look for the closing of the differential to come from a speedy reversal of the recent upward flip in dollar interest rates. But if this week's American money supply figures disappoint yet again and Chancellor Schmidt happens to lose tomorrow's vote of confidence, then next Monday could prove a very uncomfortable day for world markets. It could, of course, all happen the other way around.

Michael Prest



## Loan stocks Fine for banks

The United Kingdom corporate bond market has been lying virtually moribund since interest rates took off in the early 1970s, so it is ironic that a clearing bank — one of the main beneficiaries of high interest rates — should be the first to re-enter the market in a significant way.

Few industrial borrowers would dream of raising long-term fixed rate money at 16 per cent and it naturally prompts the question as to why Barclay's is prepared to, especially as its last public pronouncements on interest rates in the *Barclays Review* were for a general decline during 1982.

Given the discount to assets which bank shares trade on — something more than a third in the case of Barclay's — there are obvious attractions in raising loan stock rather than taking the usual course of calling on

shareholders for new equity. Furthermore, seen in terms of an 8 to 9 per cent average servicing cost on its loan capital — £432m at end 1981 compared with shareholders' funds of £1,500m — the marginal cost of the loan stock issue is less significant.

The third point is that the increased borrowing and lending which Barclays will be able to take on by gearing up on the new capital should generate profits enough to cover the cost of the new capital comfortably.

While all this helps to explain why Barclays itself is prepared to pay 16 per cent to raise £100m now, there is not much sign of anyone else rushing in its wake. But the pension funds and other institutions with long-term liabilities must be delighted at even this single offering.

The Barclays issue is not only the first significant issue by a domestic borrower for more than 10 years, it is also the biggest yet in nominal terms, topping the £36m of 10½ per cent Imperial Group loan stock.

For Barclays itself, the issue is apparently part of its regular capital raising. Last year it raised \$100m of capital notes on the United States market at 14½ per cent. Although the group's capital base was strong enough at end-1980, the balance sheet has grown strongly since then, partly due to sterling's fall.

## Productivity Better but...

Just at the moment when the Chancellor needs to see the picture of the economy at its clearest, the signs are about as murky as they can be. Mr Fynn and the CBI, backed up by such indicators as the unemployment figures, suggest that the economy has not made any appreciable recovery over the past six months and may not do so in the immediate future.

The Prime Minister, the Chancellor and the estimates of gross domestic product say that we touched bottom in the summer and have been coming up since.

Yesterday Mr John Biffen came out on the side of the optimists, particularly in the important struggle to improve competitiveness. He noted that productivity was rising twice as fast as the OECD average and that the pay round was going well.

But the sanguine interpretation that the Government has made permanent change for the better in British industry may be an over-simplification. The recent recession has been marked by the most dramatic reduction yet in the capacity of industry. If the weakest go to the wall, the average of those who survive will be stronger. But that does not mean that the survivors have themselves become much more efficient than they were, nor that they will be able to make big gains in future.

This fits in with the signs that employment continues to fall quite rapidly and that CBI members see little indication that their output has picked up yet. The improvement in productivity has come largely from the elimination of the unproductive and the willingness of workers to try harder to hold on to their jobs. What we have yet to see is convincing proof that British industry has found the recipe for doing what its competitors do, which is to boost productivity by finding better ways of doing things than using its existing techniques with a little more determination.

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In accordance with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange £10,000,000 of the Stock is available in the market on the date of publication of this advertisement. No offer or sale of any of the Stock may be made in the United States of America or in any other jurisdiction where such offer or sale would be prohibited by law.

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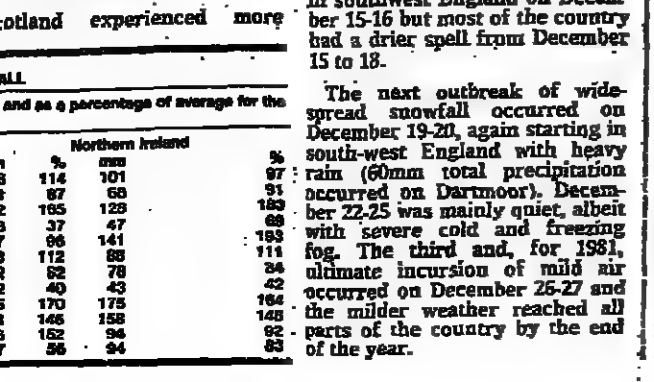


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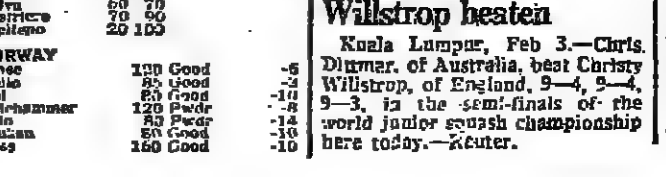


**By John Grindley, Meteorological Office**

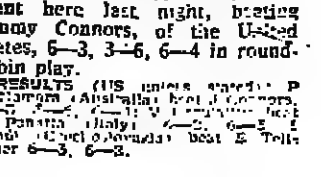
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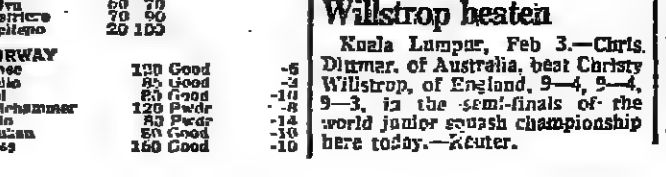
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ment here last night, brating Jimmy Connors, of the United States, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 in round-

(US news started) P  
steal from a bank and kill 4 connors.  
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other 6-0, 6-0.

[illegible]

**Willstrop beaten**  
Kuala Lumpur, Feb 3.—Chris Digmar, of Australia, beat Christy Willstrop, of England, 9-4, 9-4, 9-3, in the semi-finals of the world junior squash championship here today.—Acuter.

ment here last night, beating Jimmy Connors, of the United States, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 in round-robin play.

**RESULTS** (US unless stated): P. McEnroe (Australia) beat J. Connors, 6-2, 6-0, 6-2; M. McEnroe beat A. Panatta (Italy), 6-2, 6-2; L. Lindberg (Sweden) beat E. Teller (Schweiz), 6-3, 6-3.

ment here last night, beating Jimmy Connors, of the United States, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 in round-robin play.

**RESULTS** (US unless stated): P. McEnroe (Australia) beat J. Connors, 6-2, 6-0, 6-2; M. McEnroe beat A. Panatta (Italy), 6-2, 6-2; L. Lindberg (Sweden) beat E. Telfscher 6-3, 6-3.

Toronto, Feb. 2.—Peter McNamara of Australia, scored the first upset of a \$350,000 tournament here last night, beating Jimmy Connors, of the United States, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 in round-robin play.

RESULTS (US unless stated): P. McNamara (Australia) beat J. Connors, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4; M. Matsuda (Japan) beat J. Connors, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4; J. Connors (USA) beat J. Matsuda, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4; J. Connors (USA) beat J. Matsuda, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4; J. Connors (USA) beat J. Matsuda, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.





























still suffered with them the pain of selfishness, and in a letter he forecast that his "children's children" would see a time when the bacteriological causes of disease would be known, under control, and those diseases largely eradicated. His timing was not far off.

More generally, Dr. Rodin says, Conan Doyle's medical writing showed him to be a logical, modern, scientific sort of mind, proceeding from specific causes to effect. Unlike many doctors of his time, he never put much reliance on the grandiose theories that were so popular and led to wild enthusiasm for "cure-alls" such as "hydrotherapy," "hydrotherapy or galvanism."

Dr. Rodin expects to be in Britain shortly, exploring medical archives to Portsmouth, where Conan Doyle practised his general medicine.

Conan Doyle's creator had hit on a cure for the common cold. Elementary.

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